

PHMSA advisory: Risks associated with mobile devices

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The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Association (PHMSA) issued an advisory bulletin to remind owners and operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities of the risks associated with the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs), such as cellular telephones and mobile computers, by individuals performing operations and maintenance activities on a pipeline facility.

The bulletin provides that:

“Pipeline operations and maintenance tasks require a critical level of attention and skill, which may be compromised by visual, manual, or cognitive distractions caused by the use of PEDs. Such distractions may also hinder their prompt recognition and reaction to abnormal operating conditions and emergencies.

PHMSA recommends that operators integrate into their written procedures for operations and maintenance appropriate controls regarding the use of PEDs by individuals performing pipeline tasks that may affect pipeline operation or integrity. PHMSA is not discouraging the use of PEDs as a part of normal business operations. PHMSA also recommends that operators provide guidance and training for all personnel about the risks associated with the use of PEDs while driving, and while performing activities on behalf of the company if that use poses a risk to safety.”

PHMSA has issued a similar safety advisory notice to remind offerors and carriers of hazardous materials of the risks associated with the use of PEDs by individuals operating motor vehicles that contain hazardous materials.

LINKS

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