

PA PIPELINE EMERGENCY

Hired Gun Gang responds in the NorthEast

Williams Fire & Hazard Control was called to Eastern Pennsylvania in February '05 in response to an explosion affecting a segment of a 380-mile pipeline from Paulsboro, N.J., to Buffalo, N.Y., carrying gasoline to an operating terminal in Allentown. The rural township of South Whitehall was the site of the ignition of unknown origin to an 8" gasoline pipeline junction.

A rupture was evident when passersby on a nearby road witnessed a liquid discharge shooting into the air. Shortly after, it is suspected, a passing vehicle provided the spark igniting the blowout — described locally as “having a volcanic flame 75 feet high!” The immediate residential area including 43 homes was evacuated.



Having burned for two days, Williams' Lead Firefighters, Chauncey Naylor and Herman Ladner deliberated with local officials as to response options. Initial concerns over the gas fed flames and smoke actually became secondary as discussions turned to the potential hazard of contamination of underground water resources due to gas spillage in

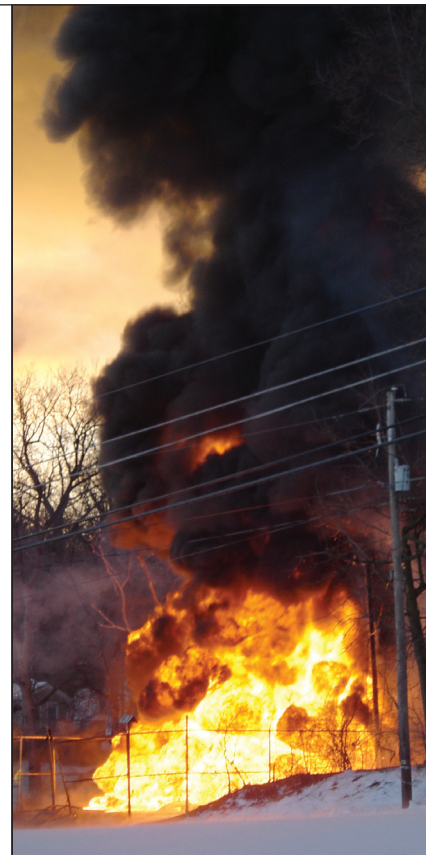
the area of the fire.

Refocusing efforts, the Williams' team along with ExxonMobil Pipeline Emergency response team members isolated the rupture area to contain any possible spill or seepage as efforts were made upline to tap into the feedstock line for the purpose of evacuating the line — thereby starving the fire AND capturing any gasoline escaping during the process.

Once the line was tapped, the gasoline source was diverted and pumped into tankers for removal from the site. As the fuel source was diverted from the pump station, the fire subsided dramatically. Eventually, fed only by the fuel spewed by the initial rupture before ignition and residual flammable vapors, the “volcanic fire” was reduced to a manageable point and ThunderStorm® ATC foam was applied for extinguishment.

This incident is a glowing example of collaboration between municipal and industrial fire responders. It also exemplifies the strength of the Hired Gun Gang Mutual Aid Society to respond to a myriad of fire related emergencies.

Upon receiving the emergency call from area officials, Williams immediately contacted long time friend and experienced firefighter Chief Mike McClure of ConocoPhillips in Trainer, PA. Once briefed on the emergency, Mike and a crew of 4 - including Safety Coordinator Joe Schmidt - responded to the scene with an industrial pumper, and a PKW Hydro-Chem trailer in support.



The industrial nature of the event in such a rural area posed some challenges for local responders. However, response coordination and teamwork between the Williams, ExxonMobil, and local personnel was exemplary. The usage of readily available municipal equipment in conjunction with specialized equipment brought to the scene by Williams — such as a Ranger Lightning Self-Educting nozzle, a TTP (through the pump) foam generating system, PRV (pressure reducing valve), and a tote of ThunderStorm 1 x 3 — resulted in a well tailored solution for the situation at hand.

The efficiency and impact of the equipment caught everyone's attention. Together, forces within ExxonMobil and the local townships have assured that this equipment has been added to the local arsenal of firefighting equipment. Also, local municipalities have since contacted Williams Fire & Hazard Control to arrange future training scenarios that will consider local exposures and work to broaden emergency responders' skills accordingly.