

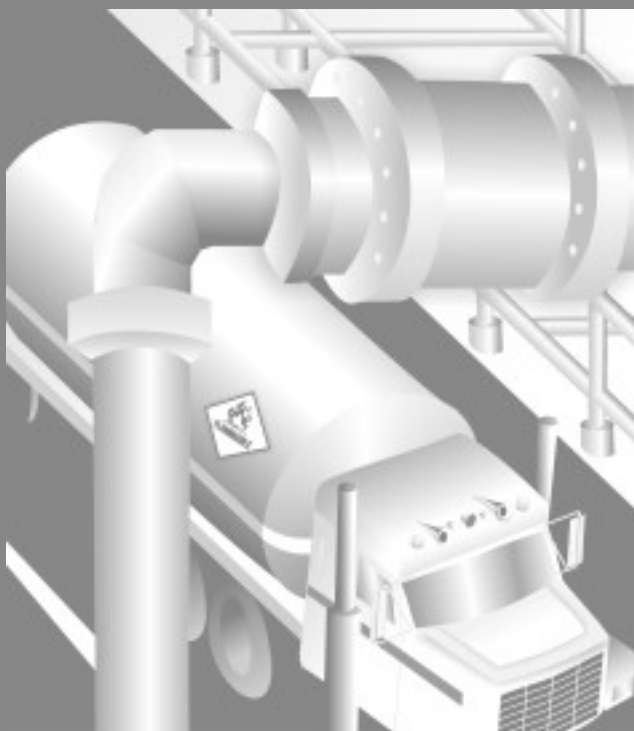
Abstract from:

<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/PA0301.pdf>

NTSB/PA03/01
PB2003-916501

Pipeline Accident Report

Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire Near Carlsbad, New Mexico August 19, 2000



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**
Washington, D.C.

Pipeline Accident Report

**Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire
Near Carlsbad, New Mexico
August 19, 2000**

**NTSB/PAR-03/01
PB2003-916501
Notation 7310B
Adopted February 11, 2003**



**National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594**

National Transportation Safety Board. 2003. *Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire Near Carlsbad, New Mexico, August 19, 2000*. Pipeline Accident Report NTSB/PAR-03/01. Washington, D.C.

Abstract: At 5:26 a.m., mountain daylight time, on Saturday, August 19, 2000, a 30-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline operated by El Paso Natural Gas Company ruptured adjacent to the Pecos River near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The released gas ignited and burned for 55 minutes. Twelve persons who were camping under a concrete-decked steel bridge that supported the pipeline across the river were killed and their three vehicles destroyed. Two nearby steel suspension bridges for gas pipelines crossing the river were extensively damaged. According to El Paso Natural Gas Company, property and other damages or losses totaled \$998,296.

The major safety issues identified in this investigation are the design and construction of the pipeline, the adequacy of El Paso Natural Gas Company's internal corrosion control program, the adequacy of Federal safety regulations for natural gas pipelines, and the adequacy of Federal oversight of the pipeline operator.

As a result of its investigation of this accident, the National Transportation Safety Board makes safety recommendations to the Research and Special Programs Administration and NACE International.

The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency dedicated to promoting aviation, railroad, highway, marine, pipeline, and hazardous materials safety. Established in 1967, the agency is mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The Safety Board makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

Recent publications are available in their entirety on the Web at <<http://www.nts.gov>>. Other information about available publications also may be obtained from the Web site or by contacting:

**National Transportation Safety Board
Public Inquiries Section, RE-51
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594
(800) 877-6799 or (202) 314-6551**

Safety Board publications may be purchased, by individual copy or by subscription, from the National Technical Information Service. To purchase this publication, order report number **PB2003-916501** from:

**National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
(800) 553-6847 or (703) 605-6000**

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of Board reports related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.