

Natural Gas Pipeline Explosions (Partial List) Since 2010

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (**PHMSA**) has calculated that over the past 20 years, there have been an average of 49 serious incidents per year nationally, resulting each year in an average of 18 fatalities, 73 injuries, over \$35 million in property damage.



September 2010: San Bruno CA, The released natural gas ignited, resulting in a fire that destroyed 38 homes and damaged 70. Eight people were killed, many were injured, and many more were evacuated from the area. A federal jury found Pacific Gas and Electric Company guilty on five felony counts of failing to adequately inspect its gas pipelines before the blast that incinerated a neighborhood in San Bruno. <https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Pages/PAR1101.aspx>

January 2011: Philadelphia, PA, A natural gas pipeline explosion killed a nineteen-year-old employee of city utility Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) and three other workers were in critical condition in Temple University Hospital's burn unit. A firefighter was also injured at the scene and is listed in "stable" condition. Prior to the blast, residents called the fire department when they smelled a strong scent of gas.

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/Tacony-Explosion-114177649.html>

December 2012: Sissonville, WV, About 20 feet of gas pipeline was separated and ejected from an underground pipeline and landed more than 40 feet from its original location. The escaping high-pressure natural gas ignited immediately. An area of fire damage about 820 feet wide extended nearly 1,100 feet along the pipeline right-of-way. Three houses were destroyed by the fire, and several other houses were damaged. About 76 million standard cubic feet of natural gas was released and burned. <https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Pages/PAR1401.aspx>



October 2013: Roston, OK, An explosion on a pipeline in northwestern Oklahoma sparked a large and roaring fire. Witnesses said the fire sounded like four roaring jet engines and had flames reaching two football fields high. Residents within two miles of the blast were ordered to evacuate.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/09/oklahoma-pipeline-explosion_n_4068377.html

March 2014: Manhattan, NYC, two adjacent multiuse five-story buildings were destroyed by a natural gas-fueled explosion and resulting fire. Eight people died, more than 50 people were injured, and more than 100 families were displaced from their homes as a result of this accident.

<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Pages/PAR1501.aspx>



November 2015: Bakersville, CA, One person died and three others were sent to the hospital with second- and third-degree burns Friday afternoon after a natural gas line explosion sent flames hundreds of feet into the air.

http://www.bakersfield.com/news/one-dead-and-three-injured-in-pg-e-natural-gas/article_98f3c442-fef3-541a-a2d6-fc77f6e22b00.html

March 2016: Seattle, WA, The explosion leveled two buildings and broke scores of windows, creating a huge debris field. The blast destroyed three businesses, damaged nearly three dozen others and injured nine firefighters in the heart of Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood. The explosion blew a 12 foot deep, 1500 square foot hole and scorched 40 acres.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/greenwood-explosion-destroys-buildings-injures-9-firefighters/>



April 2017: Firestone, CO, Leaking methane from a natural gas pipeline owned by Anadarko reportedly caused a house to explode, killing two residents and injuring a third. In May 2017, the same company had a storage tank explode, which killed one worker and injured three others.

<https://thinkprogress.org/colorado-gas-producer-under-scrutiny-d17cb286c0d8>

Clean Water for NC, FrackFreeNC

Durham office: 919-401-9600

Ericka@cwfn.org

www.frackfreenc.org