

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 P.M., E.S.T., JANUARY 31, 1977

(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: January 31, 1977

Forwarded to: Mr. C. D. Mims President Standard Oil Company of California Western Operations, Inc. 225 Bush Street San Francisco, California 94104	}	SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S) <u>P-76-87 through 90</u>
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At 10:32 a.m., P.d.t., on June 16, 1976, a piece of construction equipment excavating for a street widening project on Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, struck and punctured an 8-inch petroleum products pipeline owned by the Standard Oil Company of California. The escaping gasoline sprayed on nearby buildings and ignited 90 seconds later. As a result of this accident 9 persons were killed, 14 persons were injured, 7 buildings were destroyed, other buildings were damaged by fire and heat, and 15 vehicles were destroyed. The intense fire melted powerlines and telephone lines. 1/

The California Department of Transportation, designers and originators of the construction project; the Griffith Company, the prime contractor for the project; C. W. Poss, Inc., the sub-contractor; and the Standard Oil Company of California were all aware of the existence of the 8-inch pipeline. However, the precise depth of the pipeline within the accident area was not known, although preconstruction meetings had been held, testholes to determine the pipeline depth had been dug at other locations, and the pipeline in another area had been lowered because of its insufficient depth.

No "one-call" notification system was in effect in the Los Angeles area at the time of the accident which would have enabled the contractor to request and receive specific information concerning the depth and location of buried utilities.

1/ For more detailed information on this accident, read "Standard Oil Company of California, 8-Inch Pipeline Rupture, Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, June 16, 1976." NTSB-PAR-76-8.

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Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Standard Oil Company of California:

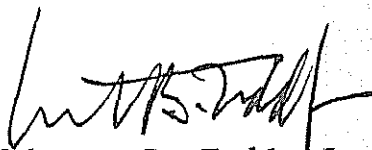
Submit precise, accurate data concerning the depth and location of its pipelines for all future construction projects. (Class II, Priority Followup) (P-76-87)

Conduct inspections of operations along its pipelines to insure that construction does not risk the integrity of its pipelines. (Class II, Priority Followup) (P-76-88)

Insure adequate communications with contractors and other parties through written substantiated means during excavation work, including more testhole verification for the depth and location of its pipelines. (Class II, Priority Followup) (P-76-89)

Join any "one-call" systems in areas where its pipelines operate and help to organize systems where they do not exist. (Class II, Priority Followup) (P-76-90)

TODD, Chairman, BAILEY, Vice Chairman, HOGUE and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendations. McADAMS, Member, did not participate.


By: Webster B. Todd, Jr.
Chairman

THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE ISSUE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.