



TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the **TXOGA** Workers' Compensation Safety Group

Right-of-Way

What this Safety Talk Covers:

The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of right-of-way (ROW) awareness in the oilfield.

Discussion Notes:

Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don’ts.”

- Do**
- ✓ Obtain and review all required permits before entering any ROW, including hot work permits, excavation permits, and confined space entry documentation specific to the work area.
 - ✓ Call 811 and confirm all underground utilities, flowlines, and buried pipelines have been properly located and marked before any ground disturbance in the oilfield. Treat every unmarked area as a live line.
 - ✓ Maintain a safe distance from pressurized equipment along the ROW, including wellheads, separators, and pipeline headers. Know the established exclusion zones before starting work.
 - ✓ Wear the appropriate PPE for the ROW environment. Examples include H2S monitors in areas with known sour service, FR/AR clothing near hydrocarbon-carrying lines, and steel-toed boots any time you are on a well site or pipe yard.
 - ✓ Always keep ROW access roads and staging areas clear of obstructions. Emergency response vehicles need a clear path to any point on the ROW without delay.
 - ✓ Report changes in site conditions immediately. Unexpected soil staining, the smell of hydrocarbons, discolored vegetation, or any sign of a subsurface release along the ROW must go up the chain right away.
- Don't**
- ✗ Operate or handle pipeline valves, wellhead chokes, or any process equipment along the ROW unless you are specifically authorized and trained to do so. Unintended releases kill.
 - ✗ Assume an oilfield ROW is clear of hazards just because it looks undisturbed. Old, unmapped flowlines and injection lines frequently exist outside of current as-builts. Probe carefully and dig by hand near any mark.
 - ✗ Park vehicles, heavy equipment, or pipe yard trailers within the pipeline corridor without authorization. Excess weight above a buried line can compromise pipe integrity and coating.
 - ✗ Bypass or ignore H2S alarms on the ROW. If your monitor activates, move upwind immediately and account for your crew. Re-enter only after air quality is confirmed safe by a competent person.



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Employee Quiz Right-of-Way

Employee Name: _____

Circle the correct answer below

1. An example of a permit you should get before entering a ROW might be:
 - a. Hot work permit
 - b. Confined space entry confirmation
 - c. Excavation permit
 - d. All of the above
2. If your H2S alarm activates, you should:
 - a. Ignore it until you hear from your supervisor
 - b. Alert your supervisor before continuing to work
 - c. Move upwind and account for all crew
 - d. Move downwind and account for all crew
3. You should treat every unmarked line as a _____.
 - a. Live line
 - b. Hooking hazard
 - c. Wellhead separator
 - d. All of the above
4. Always keep ROW access and staging roads:
 - a. groomed
 - b. marked
 - c. clear of obstructions
 - d. All of the above
5. The ROW should be left in an unsecured position at the end of a shift.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Training record: Date: _____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____