

# Carlsbad New Mexico Pipeline Explosion Kills 12 Campers August 19, 2000

The 30-inch pipeline exploded around 5:30 a.m. Saturday and left a crater about 86 feet long, 46 feet wide and 20 feet deep.



**Figure 6.** Looking west at a portion of the crater created by the rupture. The missing section of pipe between the arrows was ejected from the crater.

This is what happens when SAFETY is replaced by profit. This pipeline was operating at a low pressure of 675psi when it ruptured.

**Placitas has 2 high pressure (1650psi) Natural Gas Liquid pipelines running side by side through Placitas.**

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 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.