

Placitas has 2 high pressure Natural Gas Liquid pipelines and one high pressure gasoline pipeline running through 8 miles of Placitas.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Rupture and Fire, San Bruno, California



National Transportation Safety Board

Executive Summary of the San Bruno, California Accident

On September 9, 2010, about 6:11 p.m. Pacific daylight time, a 30-inch-diameter segment of an intrastate natural gas transmission pipeline known as Line 132, owned and operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), ruptured in a residential area in San Bruno, California. The rupture occurred at mile point 39.28 of Line 132, at the intersection of Earl Avenue and Glenview Drive. The rupture produced an asymmetric crater 167 feet long, 26 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The section of pipe that ruptured, which was about 28 feet long and weighed about 3,000 pounds, was found 100 feet south of the crater. PG&E estimated that 47.6 million standard cubic feet of natural gas was released. 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.

NTSB Pipeline Accident Report 127

3.2

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of the accident was the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E)

(1) **inadequate quality assurance and quality control in 1956** during its Line 132 relocation project, which allowed the installation of a substandard and poorly welded pipe section with a visible seam weld flaw that, over time grew to a critical size, causing the pipeline to rupture during a **pressure increase** stemming from poorly planned electrical work at the Milpitas Terminal; and (2) inadequate pipeline integrity management program, **which failed to detect** and repair or remove the defective pipe section.

On April 1, 2014, PG&E was indicted by a federal grand jury in U.S. District Court, San Francisco, for multiple violations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 relating to its record keeping and pipeline "integrity management" practices. An additional indictment was issued by the grand jury on July 29, 2014, charging the company with obstruction of justice for lying to the NTSB regarding its pipeline testing policy, bringing the total number of counts in the indictment to 28. Under the new indictment, the company could be fined as much as \$1.3 billion, based on profit associated with the alleged misconduct, in addition to \$2.5 billion for state regulatory violations.