



NAPSR

National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives

NAPSR NATIONAL MEETING 2009

On behalf of NAPSR, we want to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2009 NAPSR National Meeting, September 14 – 18, 2009, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and to share some reasons why you should attend. The meeting will begin with the traditional welcome reception on Monday night, and conclude on the following Friday.

Our conference is at the Embassy Suites in the heart of downtown. Within steps of the hotel is shopping at Circle Center mall, historic sites including Monument Circle, world-class sports stadiums including Lucas Oil (home of the Colts) and Conseco Field House (home of the Pacers), numerous theaters and art galleries and a variety of local cuisine.

Indianapolis is a thriving community that offers something for everyone. We are within a day's drive of 50% of the nation's population, and our brand new airport is a 20-minute ride to downtown. Though known as the Racing Capital of the World, Indianapolis has much more to offer.

We plan to have a vendor display again this year, and encourage you to make time to visit their displays. This will give you a chance to familiarize yourself with advanced products and services offered by vendors that participate at the meeting. This offers you the opportunity to ask questions to a person representing the product or service and to quickly learn about the capabilities of such a product which may eventually be used by an operator you might be inspecting, as well as make contacts for any questions that may arise at a later date.

Some of the reasons you will want to attend:

- A chance to meet, both in professional and in social settings, with many of your peers from across the country outside your NAPSR Region who face challenges similar to yours.
- Opportunity to address with other states and/or PHMSA issues that are critical to you, or to plan future discussions.
- To participate in discussions about the current and most relevant issues to the NAPSR membership, including PHMSA plans and policies on grant funding for state programs, State program financial audits, DIMP, damage prevention, and the outlook for other current and upcoming initiatives that may impact state resource needs.

- To hear about the outlook in the legislative arena – both at the federal level with pipeline safety reauthorization looming in 2010 and what other states are doing in addressing damage prevention enforcement issues.
- To learn about the direction of NAPSRS and the Association’s plans for the future, and to provide input and suggestions for such plans.
- An opportunity to provide direct face-to-face feedback to NAPSRS Board members on any NAPSRS issues important to you, including some that may come up for Board vote during sessions that are closed to non-NAPSRS members.
- A chance to meet with and talk to PHMSA Headquarters policy and decision-makers. In particular, this will be a chance for you to convey to PHMSA what hurdles your program is facing in your state, given the fiscal constraints that may be in effect, and their potential impact on pipeline safety.
- Address your concerns associated with data collection, including but not limited to, the CGA DIRT and the AGA PPDC, federal databases for OQ, IMP, etc. and learn about data sharing plans from PHMSA and the other states.
- Take back new information to your Pipeline Safety agency, your superiors and the operators you regulate.
- Gain a better understanding of the federal/state partnership and opportunities to become involved at various levels in projects important to you and your state.

We hope you’ll be there to experience our “Hoosier Hospitality”.

A special website at: <http://www.in.gov/iurc/2542.htm> has been designed for the conference and will be continuously updated with conference information. Registration forms and a link to the hotel registration are available on the website. If you have any further questions regarding the conference please contact Annmarie Robertson at (317) 253-1622 or annmarie.robertson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael Thompson
NAPSRS National Chairman

Annmarie Robertson
Former National Chair