

## **Proposed, “Explicit Inclusion of Well Pad Flammable Gas Piping”, in the NFPA 56 Standard**

After two horrible flammable gas related incidents that cost the lives of 10 people, (one in June of 2009 and the other in February of 2010), the US Chemical Safety Board asked the NFPA and other organizations to create consensus documents to address safe gas handling activities. NFPA 56 was one of the NFPA’s responses to this request. This document addresses flammable gas piping systems operating at more than 125 psig. Although the document has always been interpreted by some to cover well pad piping, the only explicit category of facility mentioned in the current edition is electric generating plants. The text in **Section 1.1.1 Applicability** says, “for new and existing flammable gas piping found in electric generating plants and in industrial, institutional, and commercial applications.”

During the most recent committee meeting held in Chicago on May 31, 2018, the committee passed a first draft ballot revision measure to accept Mr. Puskar’s proposed public input which would add well pad piping from the well head tree to the change of custody transfer equipment, to the applicability section. This would remove all question as to whether or not this standard applies to well pad piping.

The implications of this change would be that those constructing and or servicing well pads, (post completion), would have to consider things like having detailed plans related to safety before doing things like releasing high pressure gas and before purging into and or out of service. This standard also calls for the use of safe work practices that include using nitrogen for purging to avoid flammable mixtures within piping systems. There are also provisions in this standard for the training of workers regarding gas handling hazards.

This standard, NFPA 56, is in mid-cycle of its 3-year term. The process includes public comment periods where the oil and gas industry, and others that are impacted, can express their points of view. The webinar identified below, hosted by John Puskar and his company Prescient Technical Services llc., explains issues like what the revision cycle timing is for this standard and how comments can be made. The overall objective for the webinar is to educate and inform so that these needed changes can be embraced and lives can be saved. Everyone, including the NFPA volunteer community, the oil and gas industry, and all the enforcement agencies, wants the same thing. We all want everyone to be home with their families at the end of the day in the same state or better than when they went to work, and the application of this document can help.

**Explanatory Webinar: NFPA 56, Explicit Inclusion of Oil & Gas Well Pad Piping Proposal, (Opportunity to enhance safety for the oil and gas industry), Presented by: John Puskar, P.E., (20 minutes), July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm EST and July 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, EST.**

*What is the standard? When and why it was created, who supports it.*

*Practical issues that it addresses in the oil and gas industry.*

*The comment process and cycle for adoption of the newest revision and version of this document.*

Registration for this webinar is available at:

*Register at:* <https://bit.ly/2Hm7WW9>

For more information contact John Puskar, P.E. at [JPuskar@PrescientTs.com](mailto:JPuskar@PrescientTs.com), or 216-213-6201.

**NFPA 56, (Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Explosions During the Cleaning and Purging of Flammable Gas Piping Systems), is available for FREE viewing at the NFPA website, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)**

**DISCLAIMER:** Mr. Puskar does not speak for NFPA, does not represent NFPA, and is not employed by NFPA. He is presenting this information as an NFPA committee member and private individual who has spent his entire 38-year career passionately pursuing safety causes related to minimizing risks of fires and explosions in industry. He serves on the NFPA 56 committee as a volunteer.