

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

PIPELINE OCCURRENCES 2016

April 2017



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Table of contents

Pipeline system	2
Accidents	
Overview of accidents	
Figure 1. Number of accidents and accident rate (accidents per exajoule)	
Figure 2. Percentage of accidents by facility type, 2007–2016	3
Incidents	5
Overview of incidents	5
Figure 3. Number of pipeline incidents, 2007–2016	5
Figure 4. Percentage of incidents by facility type, 2016	6
Figure 5. Percentage of natural gas release incidents by release quantity, 2016.	7
Definitions	8

Statistical Summary Pipeline Occurrences in 2016

This document is a summary of selected 2016 pipeline safety data. It covers federally regulated pipelines only. Non-federally regulated data reported to the TSB are not included in this report.

The TSB gathers and uses this data during the course of its investigations to analyse safety deficiencies and identify risks in the Canadian transportation system.

The 2016 data were collected according to the reporting requirements described in the TSB Regulations in force during that calendar year.

The statistics presented here reflect the TSB database at 30 March 2017. Since the occurrence data are constantly being updated in the live database, the statistics may change slightly over time.

Also, as many occurrences are not formally investigated, information recorded on some occurrences may not have been verified.

The following series of data tables associated with this annual summary can be found at http://www.bst-tsb.gc.ca/eng/stats/pipeline/2016/sser-ssro-2016.asp

- Pipeline accidents and incidents by type 2007-2016
- Pipeline activity and accident rate 2007-2016
- Pipeline accidents and incidents by province 2007-2016
- Pipeline accidents and incidents by facility type 2007-2016
- Pipeline accidents and incidents with released by product type 2007-2016
- Pipeline accidents and incidents by quantity released 2007-2016

Pipeline system

In 2016, in the federally-regulated pipeline system, 42 companies, including 8 that transport both oil and gas, transported 196 million cubic metres (m³) of oil (1.2 billion barrels) along approximately 18 503 kilometres of oil pipelines. Seventy companies, including the 8 that transport both oil and gas, transported 183 billion cubic metres of natural gas (6.5 trillion cubic feet) along approximately 53 356 kilometres of natural gas pipelines.¹

Accidents

Overview of accidents

No pipeline accidents (Table 1) were reported to the TSB in 2016², the same as in 2015 but down from the annual average of 6 in the previous 5–year period (2011–2015) and 8 in the previous 10–year period (2006–2015)

Pipeline activity increased 3% from 2015³. A general indicator of pipeline transportation safety in Canada is the pipeline accident rate. The 2016 rate (Table 2) was 0 pipeline accidents per exajoule⁴, unchanged from 2015, and down from the annual average of 0.4 in 2011–2015 (Figure 1) and 0.6 in 2006–2015.

¹ The size of the federally regulated pipeline system, the number of companies, and the volumes of product transported were provided by the National Energy Board (NEB).

² Refer to Definitions for the definition of pipeline accidents. The 2016 Statistical Summary was the second full year of data following the change in the definitions of pipeline accidents and incidents, which occurred in July 2014.

³ Pipeline activity is provided by the National Energy Board (NEB).

⁴ One exajoule = 10¹⁸ joules (A joule is a unit of work or energy equal to the work done by a force of one newton acting through a distance of one metre.)

1.5 20 15 Accidents 10 5 0 0.0 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 Accidents Accident rate

Figure 1. Number of accidents and accident rate⁵ (accidents per exajoule⁶)

Location of accidents: Over the past 10 years (2007-2016), 42% of pipeline accidents (Table 4) occurred at compressor stations and gas processing plants, and 28% occurred on transmission lines (Figure 2). The remaining pipeline accidents (30%) occurred at pump stations, terminals, meter stations, and on gathering lines.

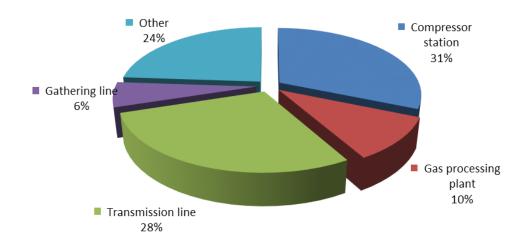


Figure 2. Percentage of accidents by facility type, 2007–2016

In 2009, there was a 38% increase in the size of the federally regulated pipeline system when an additional 23 705 kilometres of pipeline and associated facilities were transferred from provincial jurisdiction.

Source: NEB (estimated).

Fatalities: There have been no fatal accidents on a federally regulated pipeline system directly resulting from the operation of a pipeline since the inception of the TSB.

Release of product: Although there were no accidents reported in 2016, over the past 10 years (2007–2016), 39 of the 67 occurrences identified as accidents⁷ (Tables 5 & 6) resulted in a release of product. Natural gas was released in 19 accidents, with 6 releases of less than 1 cubic metre, 2 releases between 1 and 25 cubic metres, 1 releases between 26 and 1 000 cubic metres, and 10 releases over 1 000 cubic metres. Crude oil was released in 12 accidents, with 8 releases of less than 1 cubic metre (6.29 barrels (bbl)), and 4 releases between 26 and 1 000 cubic metres (between 157 and 6 290 bbl).

⁷ A change in the definition of pipeline accidents occurred in July 2014.

Incidents⁸

Overview of incidents

In 2016, 101 pipeline incidents⁹ (Table 1, Figure 3) were reported to the TSB, comparable to the 100 reported in 2015 but down from the annual average of 138 in the previous 5 years (2011–2015) and 116 in the previous 10 years (2006-2015). With the new TSB Regulations in effect starting 01 July 2014, there was a decrease in the number of reported incidents involving releases of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons from that date to the end of 2016.

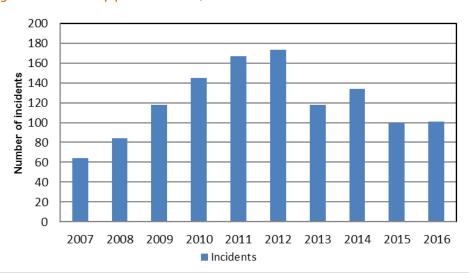


Figure 3. Number of pipeline incidents, 2007–2016

Location of incidents: In 2016, 48% of pipeline incidents (Table 4) occurred on transmission lines, followed by 18% at meter stations, 12% at compressor stations, 8% at pump stations, 5% at terminals, and 3% at gathering lines. The remaining incidents occurred at gas processing plants, or at other facilities (Figure 4).

⁸ New TSB regulations came into effect on 01 July 2014. Under the new reporting requirements, unintended or uncontained releases of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons from pipelines are only reportable if they are in excess of 1.5 m³ in volume.

⁹ Refer to Definitions for the definition of pipeline incidents.

Other station 12%

Meter station 18%

Figure 4. Percentage of incidents by facility type, 2016

Transmission

line

48%

Release of product: In 2016, 57 incidents involved no release of product and 6 incidents involved a release of less than 1 cubic metre of natural gas (Tables 1 and 6). Nineteen incidents involved a release of 1 to 25 cubic metres of natural gas, 7 incidents involved a release of 26 to 1 000 cubic metres of natural gas, and 4 incidents involved the release of over 1 000 cubic meters of natural gas. Two incidents involved a release of 1 to 25 cubic metres of sour gas, and 1 involved a release of 26 to 1 000 cubic metres of sulphur dioxide. One incident involved a release of 1 to 25 cubic metres of petroleum crude oil (Figure 5).

Pump station 8%

Terminal

5%

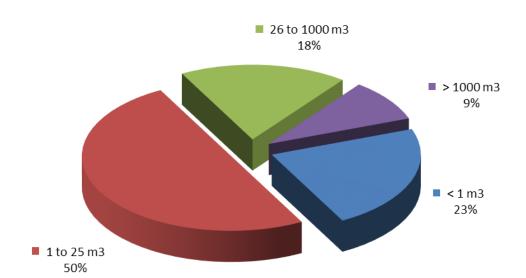


Figure 5. Percentage of natural gas release incidents by release quantity, 2016

For reportable incidents, natural gas releases of less than 1 cubic metre decreased to 6 in 2016 from 11 in 2015. However, natural gas releases of 1 to 25 cubic metres increased to 19 in 2016 from 13 in 2015.

Crude oil releases of 1.5 cubic metres or more (9.44 barrels or more) decreased to 1 in 2016 from 3 in 2015.

Data tables

Table 1
Pipeline accidents and incidents by type 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	7	6	15	11	5	7	11	5	0	(
Total, line pipe	2	0	6	1	2	1	2	2	0	(
3rd party damage with release	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
Disturbance of supporting environment with release	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
Corrosion/Environmental cracking	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Fire/Ignition/Explosion	0	0	3	0	1	1	2	1	0	
Other damage with release	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Total, other facilities (a)	5	6	9	10	3	6	9	3	0	1
3rd party damage	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	
Corrosion/Environmental cracking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fire/Ignition/Explosion	4	4	7	6	2	5	8	3	0	
Other damage with release	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Accidents with a release of product	3	3	9	8	4	3	7	2	0	
Accidents with casualties	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Accidents with environmental damage	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Accidents with a fire	4	4	11	6	3	6	8	4	0	
Accidents with an explosion	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	
Incidents*	64	84	118	145	167	173	118	134	100	10
Total, line pipe	14	13	20	16	18	18	21	26	17	4
3rd party damage no release	2	3	5	2	1	3	1	3	2	
Disturbance of supporting environment no release	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	12	4	
Uncontained release	9	5	9	7	12	12	15	4	7	1
Other	2	5	5	7	3	1	4	7	4	1
Total, other facilities	50	71	98	129	149	155	97	108	83	5
3rd party damage no release	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	4	5	
Uncontained release	45	61	86	119	124	140	83	95	61	3
Other	5	8	11	10	25	14	12	9	17	2
Incidents with a release of product	56	69	96	129	147	153	100	102	69	4
Incidents with casualties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Incidents with environmental damage	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Incidents with a fire	1	5	0	1	9	6	1	2	6	
Incidents with an explosion	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	(

Data extracted April 5, 2017.

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

In 2009, there was a 38% increase in the size of the federally regulated pipeline system when an additional 23 705 kilometres of pipeline and associated facilities were transferred from provincial jurisdiction.

^{*}New TSB regulations came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the new reporting requirements the minimum reporting threshold for incidents with release has been changed to be the same as NEB regulations which is 1.5 m3 of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons.

Table 2
Pipeline activity and accident rate 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	7	6	15	11	5	7	11	5	0	0
Natural gas products (exajoules)	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.8
Petrolium products (exajoules)	6.6	6.3	6.5	5.3	5.7	6.3	6.8	7.6	8.2	8.5
Total (exajoules)	13.1	12.5	12.4	11.8	12.4	12.9	13.2	14.2	14.8	15.3
Number of accidents per exajoule	0.53	0.48	1.21	0.93	0.40	0.54	0.83	0.35	0.00	0.00

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

Source: National Energy Board (estimated).

One exajoule = 10^{18} joules (A joule is a unit of work or energy equal to the work done by a force of one newton acting through a distance of one metre.)

Table 3 Pipeline accidents and incidents by province 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	7	6	15	11	5	7	11	5	0	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	2	1	5	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Manitoba	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Saskatchewan	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Alberta	0	0	4	4	1	2	6	2	0	0
British Columbia	3	4	4	3	0	2	2	1	0	0
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incidents*	64	84	118	145	167	173	118	134	100	101
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	2	3	3
New Brunswick	1	0	5	6	14	19	16	9	3	6
Quebec	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
Ontario	8	17	20	19	22	22	10	21	15	14
Manitoba	4	10	9	14	11	10	12	8	9	2
Saskatchewan	10	17	13	38	35	45	18	17	6	6
Alberta	11	16	36	51	55	45	35	35	30	41
British Columbia	23	19	26	13	11	18	17	41	31	25
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	2	2	5	1	12	11	6	0	2	1
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

*New TSB regulations came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the new reporting requirements the minimum reporting threshold for incidents with release has been changed to be the same as NEB regulations which is 1.5 m3 of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons.

Table 4
Pipeline accidents and incidents by facility type 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	7	6	15	11	5	7	11	5	0	0
Compressor station	2	2	3	5	0	3	4	2	0	0
Gathering line	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Injection/Delivery facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meter station	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Gas processing plant	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pump station	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Storage facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terminal	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Transmission line	3	0	7	1	2	0	3	3	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incidents*	64	84	118	145	167	173	118	134	100	101
Compressor station	8	20	32	26	22	31	15	19	16	12
Gathering line	5	5	9	7	7	8	2	4	5	3
Injection/Delivery facility	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Meter station	5	2	14	21	20	17	19	12	8	18
Gas processing plant	4	8	8	5	3	6	11	21	21	2
Pump station	15	20	26	30	48	37	19	22	14	8
Storage facility	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Terminal	11	10	13	21	27	35	19	18	11	5
Transmission line	14	17	16	32	31	33	30	34	24	48
Other	2	1	0	2	7	5	2	3	1	5

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

^{*}New TSB regulations came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the new reporting requirements the minimum reporting threshold for incidents with release has been changed to be the same as NEB regulations which is 1.5 m3 of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons.

Table 5
Pipeline accidents and incidents with released by product type 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	3	3	9	8	4	3	7	2	0	0
Condensate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquified petroleum gas	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural gas	1	0	5	3	2	2	4	2	0	0
Natural gas liquids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petroleum crude oil	2	1	1	4	2	0	2	0	0	0
Refined products	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sour gas	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Well effluent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sour condensate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sour crude oil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acid gas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incidents*	56	69	96	129	147	153	100	102	69	44
Condensate	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	4	0	0
Liquified petroleum gas	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	3	2	0
Natural gas	19	26	37	55	59	63	45	37	30	36
Natural gas liquids	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	4	6	4
Petroleum crude oil	24	28	32	54	71	77	31	32	3	1
Refined products	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sour gas	6	1	7	2	2	4	2	3	10	2
Well effluent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sour condensate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sour crude oil	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Acid gas	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	6	10	16	10	9	6	13	19	17	1

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

^{*}New TSB regulations came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the new reporting requirements the minimum reporting threshold for incidents with release has been changed to be the same as NEB regulations which is 1.5 m3 of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons.

Table 6 Pipeline accidents and incidents by quantity released 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Accidents	3	3	9	8	4	3	7	2	0	0
Less than 1 cubic metre	1	2	6	8	2	3	6	1	0	0
1 to 25 cubic metres	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 to 1000 cubic metres	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Greater than 1000 cubic metres	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Incidents*	56	69	96	129	147	153	100	102	69	44
Less than 1 cubic metre	45	53	87	118	124	146	89	74	23	10
1 to 25 cubic metres	7	13	5	5	13	4	8	16	33	22
26 to 1000 cubic metres	2	3	3	6	5	3	2	10	9	8
Greater than 1000 cubic metres	2	0	1	0	5	0	1	2	4	4

Federally regulated pipeline occurrences.

^{*}New TSB regulations came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the new reporting requirements the minimum reporting threshold for incidents with release has been changed to be the same as NEB regulations which is 1.5 m3 of low vapour pressure hydrocarbons.

Definitions

Pipeline accidents and incidents prior to 01 July 2014

Prior to July 2014 (previous TSB Regulations), pipeline accidents and incidents are defined as follow:

Pipeline accidents

Reportable commodity pipeline accident means an accident resulting directly from the operation of a commodity pipeline, where

- a) a person sustains a serious injury or is killed as a result of being exposed to
- (i) a fire, ignition or explosion, or
- (ii) a commodity released from the commodity pipeline, or
- b) the commodity pipeline
- (i) sustains damage affecting the safe operation of the commodity pipeline as a result of being contacted by another object or as a result of a disturbance of its supporting environment,
- (ii) causes or sustains an explosion, or a fire or ignition that is not associated with normal operationg circumstances, or
- (iii) sustains damage resulting in the release of any commodity.

Pipeline incidents

Reportable commodity pipeline incident means an incident resulting directly from the operation of a commodity pipeline, where

- (a) an uncontained and uncontrolled release of a commodity occurs,
- (b) the commodity pipeline is operated beyond design limits,
- (c) the commodity pipeline causes an obstruction to a ship or to a surface vehicle owing to a disturbance of its supporting environment,
- (d) any abnormality reduces the structural integrity of the commodity pipeline below design limits,
- (e) any activity in the immediate vicinity of the commodity pipeline poses a threat to the structural integrity of the commodity pipeline, or

(f) the commodity pipeline, or a portion thereof, sustains a precautionary or emergency shut-down for reasons that relate to or create a hazard to the safe transportation of a commodity;

Pipeline occurrences after 01 July 2014

As of 01 July 2014, the new reporting provisions of the TSB regulations came into effect. According to section 4(1) of the TSB Regulations, the operator of a pipeline must report the following pipeline occurrences to the Board if they result directly from the operation of the pipeline:

- a person is killed or sustains a serious injury;
- the safe operation of the pipeline is affected by
 - damage sustained when another object came into contact with it, or
 - a fire or explosion or an ignition that is not associated with normal pipeline operations;
- an event or an operational malfunction results in
 - an unintended or uncontrolled release of gas,
 - an unintended or uncontrolled release of HVP hydrocarbons,
 - an unintended or uncontained release of LVP hydrocarbons in excess of 1.5 m³, or
 - an unintended or uncontrolled release of a commodity other than gas, HVP hydrocarbons or LVP hydrocarbons;
- there is a release of a commodity from the line pipe body;
- the pipeline is operated beyond design limits or any operating restrictions imposed by the National Energy Board;
- the pipeline restricts the safe operation of any mode of transportation;
- an unauthorized third party activity within the safety zone¹⁰ poses a threat to the safe operation of the pipeline;
- a geotechnical, hydraulic or environmental activity poses a threat to the safe operation of the pipeline;
- the operation of a portion of the pipeline is interrupted as a result of a situation or condition that poses a threat to any person, property or the environment; or
- an unintended fire or explosion has occurred that poses a threat to any person, property or the environment.

Pipeline accidents after 01 July 2014

For 2014 statistical reporting, pipeline accidents as of 01 July 2014 consist of reportable pipeline occurrences that resulted in:

- loss of human life;
- a serious injury¹¹
- a fire or explosion that causes a pipeline or facility to be inoperative;

¹⁰ "Safety zone" means the area extending 30 m perpendicularly from the centre of a pipeline on either side of the pipeline.

¹¹ As defined in the Transportation Safety Board Regulations.

- a low vapour pressure hydrocarbon release in excess of 1.5 m³ that leaves company property or the right-of-way;
- a rupture¹²; or
- a toxic plume¹³.

Pipeline incidents after 01 July 2014

For 2014 statistical reporting, pipeline incidents as of 01 July 2014 consist of all reportable pipeline occurrences other than pipeline accidents.

¹² An instantaneous release that immediately impairs the operation of a pipeline such that pressure cannot be maintained.

¹³ As defined in Canadian Standards Association Standard Z662.