

DIVISION OF UTILITY AND RAILROAD SAFETY

The Division of Utility and Railroad Safety assists the Commission in administering three safety programs: Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety, Railroad Safety and Underground Utility Damage Prevention.

The Pipeline Safety Section of the Division helps ensure the safe operation of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, through inspections of facilities and new constructions, review of safety records and programs, and investigation of incidents. In 2014, the Division's pipeline safety activities involved 12 natural gas companies, with a total of 20,940 miles of pipelines serving 1,230,056 customers, 59 master-metered systems, 32 propane systems and 4 hazardous liquid pipeline companies with a total of 897 miles of pipelines.

Summary of 2014 Activities

Gas Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	693
Hazardous Liquid Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	86
Number of Counts of Probable Violations Cited	174
Pipeline Accidents Investigated	36
Pipeline Safety Trainings Conducted	44
Reports filed	7

The Rail Safety Section of the Division helps ensure the safe operation of jurisdictional railroads by conducting inspections of tracks and motive power and equipment and investigations of certain accidents. The Division's inspections involve more than 3,394 miles of track and thousands of cars and locomotives.

Summary of 2014 Activities

Number of Track Units ¹ Inspected	8,065
Number of Locomotive and Car Units ² Inspected	16,576
Number of Operating Practice Units ³ Inspected	1,972
Number of Defects Noted	5,843
Number of Violations Cited	29
Number of Accidents Investigated	23
Number of Complaints Investigated	12

The Damage Prevention Section of the Division investigates all reports of "probable violations" of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act ("Act") and on a monthly basis presents its findings and recommendations to an Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission in accordance with the Act. This Committee then makes enforcement recommendations to the Commission. The Division provides free training relative to the Act and safe digging practices to excavators, utilities and others, disseminates damage prevention educational material and promotes partnership among the stakeholders to further underground utility damage prevention in Virginia.

Summary of 2014 Activities

Underground Utility Damage Reports Investigated	1,310
Number of Individuals Having Received Damage Prevention Training	1,853
Number of Damage Prevention Educational Material Disseminated	89,000
Number of Damage Prevention Field Audits Conducted	374

¹ Each mile of track, record, crossing at grade, among other things, is considered a track unit.

² Each locomotive, car, motive power equipment record, among other things, is considered a unit.

³ Each location where operations are or may occur such as switchyards, field offices, yard offices, trains, yard crew locations and dispatching are considered an operating practice unit.