

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 2013, the Division's pipeline safety activities involved 11 natural gas companies, with a total of 20,846 miles of pipelines serving 1,226,479 customers, 70 master-metered systems, 33 propane systems and 4 hazardous liquid pipeline companies with a total of 897 miles of pipelines.

Summary of 2013 Activities

Gas Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	1,089
Hazardous Liquid Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	72
Number of Counts of Probable Violations Cited	509
Pipeline Accidents Investigated	20
Pipeline Safety Trainings Conducted	31
Reports filed	3

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 3,574 miles of track and thousands of cars and locomotives.

Summary of 2013 Activities

Number of Track Units ¹ Inspected	10,372
Number of Locomotive and Car Units ² Inspected	20,230
Number of Operating Practice Units ³ Inspected	3,244
Number of Defects Noted	5,206
Number of Violations Cited	20
Number of Accidents Investigated	22
Number of Complaints Investigated	20

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 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, conducts public education campaigns and promotes partnership among the stakeholders to further underground utility damage prevention in Virginia.

Summary of 2013 Activities

Underground Utility Damage Reports Investigated	1,538
Number of Individuals Having Received Damage Prevention Training	2,012
Number of Damage Prevention Educational Material Disseminated	59,492
Number of Damage Prevention Field Audits Conducted	873
Testimony filed	3

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.