

DIVISION OF UTILITY AND RAILROAD SAFETY

The Division of Utility and Railroad Safety assists the Commission in administering safety programs involving the jurisdictional natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, railroads, and underground utility damage prevention. The Pipeline Safety section of the Division ensures the safe operation of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities through inspections of facilities, review of records, and investigation of incidents. The Railroad Regulation section of the Division conducts inspections of railroad facilities including track and equipment to ensure the safe operation of jurisdictional railroads within Virginia. The Damage Prevention section investigates all reports of "probable violations" of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act ("Act") and presents its findings and recommendations to the Commission's Damage Prevention Advisory Committee. The Committee makes enforcement recommendations to the Commission. The Division provides free training relative to the Act to stakeholders, conducts public education campaigns, and promotes partnership amongst various parties to further underground utility damage prevention in Virginia.

Summary of 2006 Activities

Consumer Complaints and Inquiries Received	5
Natural Gas Safety Inspections	337
Hazardous Liquid Safety Inspections	32
Testimony and Reports	3
Pipeline Accident Investigations	35
Underground Utility Damage Reports Processed	2,335
Persons receiving Damage Prevention Training from Staff	4,012
Number of Damage Prevention Educational Materials Disseminated	250,000
Number of Railroad Track Units ¹	9,488
Number of Railroad Locomotive and Car Units ²	29,692
Number of Railroad Operating Practice Units ³	982
Railroad Accident Investigations	8

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

² Each locomotive, car, motive power equipment record, among others 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.