What’s changed since Marshall

The Line 6B incident, in July 2010 near Marshall, Michigan, made a lasting impact on how Enbridge operates. The lessons we learned from this incident have ultimately made us a safer company. We’ve since put in place a wide range of measures to enhance the safety and reliability of our entire North American pipeline system.

What is Enbridge doing to keep its pipelines safe?

Prevention is a key component of our commitment to pipeline safety. Over the past five years, through 2015, we conducted 11,308 verification digs and 839 in-line inspections throughout our cross-continent crude oil pipeline system. These inspections and digs allow us to monitor our pipelines from the inside and out to ensure they continue to operate safely and reliably.

What about the pipe itself?

We have rigorous design and construction standards, and our specifications for pipe exceed industry demands. Our inspectors have unlimited access to our trusted partner’s pipe mills throughout the entire manufacturing process.

How do you stay in touch?

We are regularly in touch with local and state officials, emergency responders and 9-1-1 dispatchers, as well as residents along our pipeline systems, to provide information on pipeline safety, how to recognize a potential pipeline leak, the actions to take, and much more.

How much do you invest in safety?

Over the past four years, through 2015, we’ve spent $4.56 billion on maintenance, inspection, and leak detection across our crude oil pipeline system.
Boosting safety across the board

The safety of the public and the environment, and the operational reliability of our systems, will always be our Number One priority. As a result of the Line 6B incident, we’ve since put in place a wide range of measures to enhance the safety and the reliability of our entire North American pipeline system.

Control Center enhancements

We’ve added staff and enhanced organizational structures at our Control Center Operations (CCO), while also revising and enhancing all CCO procedures pertaining to decision making, pipeline startup and shutdown, leak detection system alarms, and communication protocols.

Exceeding pipe steel specifications

Our specifications for pipeline steel exceed industry demands. We look for higher-quality pipe that undergoes more rigorous, and more frequent testing.

EVRAZ North America supplies the vast majority of our line pipe. In March 2015, Enbridge and EVRAZ made a joint announcement that our two companies will partner on a research and development program, along with industry and academic institutions, to enhance pipeline performance.

Promoting public awareness

We’ve substantially reviewed and strengthened our Public Awareness programs in both the United States and Canada to inform the public about how to stay safe around our facilities and pipelines, and how to identify and report potential problems along our systems.

Preparedness is key

We’ve invested and deployed more than $57 million in new response equipment, from boom to boots to skimmers, across our enterprise through to 2017.

We also hold frequent exercises, simulations, drills and equipment deployment events across our North American system, as a way of bolstering our emergency response and preparedness efforts. Over the past four years, through 2015, we held 1,590 exercises, drills and equipment deployment events across our company, for an average of 397 a year. These events test and hone our readiness in the unlikely event of an incident.

Preventative maintenance digs and inline inspections are core aspects of our proactive inspection program which helps ensure our systems are operating safely and reliably.

Online, interactive training

Enbridge’s Emergency Responder Education Program, another facet of our public awareness outreach, offers free unlimited online training and pipeline emergency response tactics for first responders near our projects and operations.

We’ve also expanded this program with a training module targeted specifically at 9-1-1 call center personnel, so that they are equipped, if necessary, to initiate a safe and effective response to a pipeline incident.