OSFM engineers inspect pipeline operators to ensure compliance with federal and state pipeline safety laws and regulations. In addition, the PSD also:

- Provides technical assistance to any local governmental agency (fire, police, etc.) on matters relating to hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide pipeline safety issues.
- Investigates releases of hazardous liquid pipelines or incidents relating to jurisdictional pipeline facilities. Probable cause of the incident is determined and action taken to minimize reoccurrence. Civil penalties are issued where appropriate.
- Educates pipeline operators and the public to promote pipeline safety.
- Conducts periodic pipeline safety seminars/training for firefighters, emergency response personnel, state and local agencies, and the pipeline industry.
- Reviews applications by firms or persons who are qualified to certify results of hydrostatic tests and maintains a list of approved testers. The PSD also maintains a guideline for conducting hydrostatic tests and has direct oversight and evaluation of approved hydrotest companies by field evaluation and training.