

Investigators are still unable to say why a PG&E gas transmission line exploded in a San Bruno neighborhood on Sept. 9, setting off an hour-and-a-half conflagration that killed eight people and destroyed 37 homes.

Although PG&E moved quickly to help victims with immediate financial needs, the utility is facing fines, civil suits, and a variety of investigations, all of which will call into question whether the company has done enough to protect the public from its vast network of gas lines.

Local 1245 members rushed to the emergency personnel staging area in the minutes and hours after the dinner-time explosion, working through the night and into the following week to secure damaged gas and electric lines and to restore services where possible.

In a regulatory filing on Nov. 4, PG&E estimated that the cost of repairs, victim compensation, pipe inspection, and valve replacement could cost \$1 billion.

News reports have suggested that up to two-thirds of PG&E's gas pipeline



PG&E Equipment Operator Tito Navarro (left), a 17-year member of Local 1245, works on repairs in the days following the explosion, as does PG&E Fitter Dave Lane (below), a 24-year member.



network is vulnerable to failure due to age and possible shortcomings in PG&E's inspection methods.

The Public Utilities Commission came under fire at a state legislative hearing in late October, where Sen. Dean Florez pressed PUC officials to explain why they had let PG&E defer pipeline maintenance that the PUC had funded.

"Do we just give them money and

cross our fingers and hope they fix it? Is that what we do at the PUC? ... Until some terrible tragedy occurs?" Florez asked.

A Los Angeles Times investigation found that PG&E has reported leaks on gas transmission lines at a rate more than six times that of other large pipeline system across the country, and three times greater than the state's other big natural gas supplier, SoCal Gas.

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer in October introduced sweeping legislation to strengthen oversight of natural gas pipelines and establish penalties for violating federal regulations.

The National Transportation Safety Administration is leading the federal investigation of the San Bruno explosion.

# Why? San Bruno Tragedy

## Media Reports

See some of the major reporting that has been done on the San Bruno explosion and its aftermath at [www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/San\\_Bruno\\_Media\\_Reports.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/San_Bruno_Media_Reports.html)



PG&E crews gather at the emergency staging area in San Bruno on the evening of the explosion.

Thirty seven homes were destroyed by the explosion and fire.