

INCIDENT ALERT

LOCATION: Construction/delivery site

ALERT STATUS: Normal

ACTIVITY: Worker Involvement

DATE ISSUED: 18/03/08

SUB ACTIVITY: N/A

INCIDENT No: 00141

TITLE

Damage to Underground Gas Pipe

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT DETAILS

Ref: 29.02.2008

UK Safety Alert

Damage to Underground Gas Pipe

Details of the Incident

While undertaking some exploratory excavation in preparation for proposed foundations, a mechanical excavator made contact with a live gas pipe.

The gas pipe (approx 180mm dia), was damaged but not ruptured and no gas escaped. Emergency arrangements were initiated and the gas utility company attended the site to advise.

The initial investigation found that before breaking ground inadequate consideration had been given to the possible presence of underground services. There was insufficient assessment of the potential risk via •Risk Assessment• or •Worksafe•, had such assessments been carried out then this incident could have been avoided.

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT IMAGES

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Learning Points

While undertaking any work that could potentially involve underground services of any kind, (incTM water, gas or electricity), precautions must be implemented to identify and safeguard any live services. Site drawings and plans can often have important information on known services, though should not be totally relied upon.

The work must be planned to anticipate potential hazards.

Guidance Note HS(G)47, gives advice on the precautions and methods that should be adopted, to enable the work to be carried out safely, these include:

- Only competent persons should supervise and undertake excavations.
- Any site plan indicating existing services should be used as a guide only.
- The use of appropriate scanning equipment by competent personnel to determine the exact location of services.
- Appropriate excavation equipment should be employed where there is uncertainty including hand digging if necessary.

- Are site emergency arrangements (contact details) effective and up to date.

Any new services should be correctly installed with suitable warning notices and service plans updated.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS IMAGES