

Health, Safety & Environment Alert

Significant near miss – High Pressure Gas Main		
Authorised by:	Derek Wood	Date: 29/02/16
Distribution:	eight2O all projects	

HP Gas Main High Potential Incident, SMBJV, eight2O

On the 9th December 2015, during excavation works to locate a water main, the bitumen coating of a 24inch high pressure gas main was damaged by the bucket of JCB.

The water main was correctly traced and marked out, but on excavation it was found to be a bitumen wrapped steel pipe rather than the cast iron pipe indicated on the drawing. The team were unsure that it was the water main so decided to excavate on a second traced service some 3m away and, in doing so, scrapped it with the bucket of the JCB.

Key Actions Taken

Work was stopped and SGN (the asset owner) attended site and completed a repair.

The Principle Contractor and Contractor involved have completed investigations and detailed action plans are being implemented and monitored by eight2O.

Dialogue has taken place with National Grid and SGN regarding the adequacy of information provided via their Freephone service (via Skanska due to their gas contract).

eight2O have established a series of safety engagement meetings with CEO/COO of key suppliers.

Findings

- Transfer of this work into eight2O was not as robust as it should have been, there was some confusion as to who was responsible for what under the contract and assumptions were made as to who was doing what.
- It was unclear at design and planning stage as to who should have spotted the proximity of the water main to the gas main and redesigned or requested service owner presence.
- The assimilation of the contractors working practices into eight2O process was not adequate.
- The gas main was shown on drawings provided to the team. The drawings provided stated that SGN was the owner however a marker post on site provided a National Grid telephone number.
- On discovering the marker post National Grid were contacted who stated that they had no assets in the area (the main is operated by SGN).
- The water drawings indicated a cast iron rather than steel water main.
- The Construction Phase Plan was not complete and did not detail this risk or the control measures.
- Supervision was provided by the contractor. The team were labour only and had not been through the eight2O induction, passport & competence processes.
- There was an initial attempt to conceal or play down the incident by the team delaying incident notification.

Other Learning

1. Ensure that processes are in place to contact the correct utility owner – this will be shown on the utility drawings and associated marker posts.
2. www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk should be used as standard during planning of any excavation works. LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD) is a free to use online search system that any individual (“User”) can use to check their works against over 50 asset owners’ (“Members”) utility assets. These assets include underground and overhead pipes and cables in the electricity, gas, high pressure fuel, water and fibre optic networks
3. Never excavate in the vicinity of 3rd party plant without a written plan having been agreed with the utility owner and their permission to proceed or interfere with the coating / protection of a 3rd party pipeline.



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Remember causing damage to a 3rd party pipeline will result in catastrophic results.

Briefing for alert

We the undersigned have been made aware of the contents of this briefing. If we are unable to carry out the work safely or if the environment is at risk, we agree that we must immediately stop work and inform our manager/supervisor.

Date	Name	Signature



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Manager/supervisor's signature:	Date:
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