# **Shared Learning**



## Gas pipe struck during drilling – Carnoustie

**Issued to:** Scotland's Railway colleagues

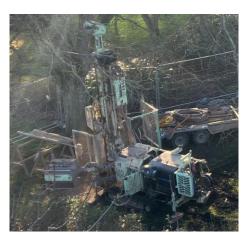
& Principal Contractors

**Ref:** SRL23-02L **Date of issue:** 19/09/2023

**Location:** Carnoustie ECN3 10m 315y

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<u>Manager</u>



#### Overview

Earlier this year, drilling was being carried out to check ground conditions for a new construction project. During the drilling operation a gas pipe was struck, causing a significant gas release. This meant that the railway had to be closed for 24 hours and surrounding properties evacuated.

The event also had to be reported to the Health & Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

## **Underlying Causes**

- Existing buried services information was available but wasn't included in the Permit to Dig for the site.
- The Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanning wasn't carried out fully and didn't pick up the gas pipe before works.

The team received a briefing from their supervisor at another location before traveling to the site of work, without the supervisor.

On arrival, they set up and started to hand dig as a final check for underground services. They hit an obstruction at approximately 0.8m but assumed it was a tree root, so decided to continue with the drilling machine. At this point, they struck a medium pressure plastic mains gas pipe. Scotlish Gas Networks and Police Scotland were contacted to manage the event.

- The site team didn't receive a suitable briefing and weren't made aware of the gas pipe and other buried services.
- The site team decided to drill despite finding an obstruction. There was no site supervisor on site to discuss this with or intervene.

## **Key Message**

Where would you get buried services information? Are you aware of the process?

How do you check that your plans and permits are suitable and site specific?

Do you have the right level of supervision on vour sites?

**Always** check buried services and other information at the planning stage of works.

**Never** carry out works without suitable plans & permits in place.

**Always** 'take 5' and reassess if you notice something unexpected on site.

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