

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 04/12/2021

Incident Number: G 20210211-3178

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 2/10/2021, 10:20:00 AM

Location of the Incident: ■■■■■ Topanga Canyon Blvd
Woodland Hills ,CA
County: Los Angeles

Summary of Incident:

A third-party contractor, a Caltrans' employee was auguring to install a street sign when augur's blade damaged a SoCalGas 6-inch medium pressure steel distribution main resulted in a gas released into the atmosphere. Area was blocked off and traffic was rerouted. There were no injuries or fatalities resulted from this incident. SED investigation found that the incident was caused by the third-party contractor failing to request USA ticket. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 0

Property Damage: \$64,363.00

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 6 (inches), MAOP = 45 (psi), Operating Pressure = 40 (psi)

Witnesses:

Name

Title

Phone

1	Mahmoud Intably	CPUC Investigator	N/A
2	██████████	Caltrans' representative	
3	██████████	SoCalGas' PSCA	██████████
4	██████████	SoCalGas' PSCA	██████████

Evidence:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 SoCalGas	Initial Report
2 SoCalGas	Final Report - PHMSA F7100.1
3 SoCalGas	SoCalGas response to SED data requests

Observations and Findings:

A third-party contractor, a Caltrans' employee was auguring to install a street sign when augur's blade damaged a SoCalGas 6-inch medium pressure steel distribution main resulted in a gas released into the atmosphere. Area was blocked off and traffic was rerouted. There were no injuries or fatalities resulted from this incident. This incident was reported to both DOT/ CPUC due to gas release and potential cost of repairs exceeding \$50,000. In addition, there was no service interruption to SoCalGas' customers.

SoCalGas' crew arrived on the scene at 1040 hours, excavated three (3) control points, installed pressure control fittings to stop the flow of gas, and to isolate the damaged section of SoCalGas' 6-inch medium pressure steel distribution main. At this location, the steel distribution main is a four-way feed and SoCalGas installed an above ground temporary bypass to maintain service to its customers. SoCalGas's crew was able to have the gas under control at 21:30 hours.

SoCalGas's crew excavated the site, cut out the damaged section (at depth of 51 inches) and installed a 36-inch steel pipe (API-51-0279, tested at 3000 psig). SED reviewed the welder qualification of ██████████, #42000024 for SMAW High Stress and it was valid until 7/31/2021. SoCalGas's crew cut out the damaged section and installed 3ft of new steel pipe along with anode for CP.

SED took photos of the site including the transitional fittings, the damaged section (axial - 6.5 inches and circumferential – 3 inches)

The 6-inch medium pressure steel gas main was installed in 1962, class 3 location, at a depth of 52 inches, wall thickness (0.254), with MAOP of 45 psig and MOP of 40 psig. The 6-inch medium pressure steel gas main was pre 1971 and did not have cathodic protection. The MAOP was established in 7/1/1970 under Section

192.619(a)(4).

SoCalGas' crew performed a post-incident leak survey after the repair was completed and found zero gas indication.

The last leak survey was completed on September 12, 2020 with zero leaks indication.

The estimated cost of gas released was \$11,213 (2,735 mcf). In addition, the estimated cost of SoCalGas's property damage and repairs were estimated to be in the amount of \$18,402, and the cost of emergency response was \$34,747. This puts the price tag in the amount of \$64,363.

At the time of the incident, Caltrans did not have a valid USA ticket. SED called [REDACTED], Caltrans' representative who was in charge of the crew installing the street sign and informed him that he is required to have a valid USA ticket and to contact USA ticket before installing the street sign.

SED investigation found Caltrans, the third-party contractor in violation of California Government Code (CGC) 4216, Section 4216(b) for failure to notify the appropriate regional center at least two working days before starting the excavation. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

None

Conclusion:

Based on SED investigation, SED finds Caltrans in violation of CGC 4216, Sections 4216.2(b), for failure to notify the appropriate regional center at least two working days before starting the excavation. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.