

November 13, 2014

Injury at job site: [REDACTED] Scottsdale Dr

I was in a meeting at the time I received a phone call from [REDACTED] around 1:21pm on Friday November 7, 2014 [REDACTED] stated he had an emergency and need me to respond. [REDACTED] was injured while attempting to cut roots from inside of 4" clay pipe. [REDACTED] stated there was an explosion and flames burned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called dispatch to get Fire, Police, and PG&E on scene and I immediately left the meeting along with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and proceeded to the jobsite. I arrived on scene and [REDACTED] was being treating by San Jose Fire and getting ready to be transported to the hospital in an ambulance. I spoke with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they went over with me how the injury occurred. The crew was attempting to install a temporary 3" pipe inside the 4" clay pipe because they need to continue working out in the street due more roots on the next work day. [REDACTED] was attempting to remove roots using a cordless power tool (sawzall) when an explosion occurred with a burst of fire which threw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] back about five (5) feet back. [REDACTED] exited the trench and a second explosion occurred. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was providing first aid to [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] was making necessary phone calls. The location where the power line bored through the sanitary lateral was not marked in red or any other color paint to indentify it. All other utilizes in the work zone were marked and identified.

[REDACTED]
Maintenance Supervisor

To Whom It May Concern,

11/13/14

HELLO MY NAME IS [REDACTED]

MY DAY STARTED AT SAID JOB LOCATION - SCOTTSDALE RD - WITH THE CREW 3 - [REDACTED] AND I - WE ARRIVED TO JOB SITE AND OUR CREW LEADS WERE CONFERRING TO DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PLAN OF OPERATION THEY DETERMINED TO PULL OUT SOME DIRT TO GIVE US ENOUGH ROOM TO HAND DIG TO EXPOSE THE UTILITY LINES WHICH WERE MARKED OUT BY PG&E, WATER AND CABLE. SO WE DID SO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPRAY PAINTED MARKINGS FROM EACH UTILITY, WHICH WERE ALL ACCOUNTED FOR SO [REDACTED] AND I BOTH BEGAN HAND DIGGING TO EXPOSE SAID UTILITY LINES. THE EARTH WAS ROCK SOLID SO OUR CREW LEADER [REDACTED] EVEN HELPED US HAND DIG ABOUT AN HOUR OF OUR LABOR WITH ALL 3 OF US SWITCHING OFF, WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO EXPOSE THE UTILITY LINES, SO WE WERE THEN ABLE TO DIG WITH THE BACK HOE AWAY FROM THE UTILITY LINES TO EXPOSE THE BREAK IN OUR SEWER PIPES. SO [REDACTED] DID SO WITH THE BACK HOE. ONCE WE EXPOSED OUR PIPE WITH A BIT MORE HAND DIGGING, WE STUCK A CAMERA DOWN OUR PIPE TO SEE THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS. [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WERE THE ONES LOOKING PRIMARILY AT THE SCREEN BEING AS THEY HAVE MOST EXPERIENCE. AFTER MUCH CAREFUL INSPECTION WE DETERMINED THAT ROOTS WERE THE PROBLEM. WE SEEN SO MANY ROOTS PROTRUDING THROUGH OUR PIPE, IT WAS CLEARLY EVIDENT. EVEN THE LINE WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE PG&E POWER LINE CLEARLY LOOKED LIKE A ROOT SINCE IT WAS COVERED IN ROOTS. IT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THE ROOTS WE SEE DAILY WHICH BLOCK THEM OUR PIPE. THE ROOTS WERE SIMPLY COMING FROM EVERYWHERE!

So I went down into the hole to attach a temporary pipe to be fixed on a later date. As I tried to attach the temporary pipe, I was unable to due to the root which had bore thru our pipe. So first I tried to jam it out with a bar but could not. So I was told by [redacted] to use a sand aug. So I began spinning it and the next thing I know, I feel extreme heat and a bright orange flash! It exploded! It threw me back 5 feet or so back ward onto my back. I then struggled getting out of hole but was able to and as I got out another explosion blasted off. We all ran away from area. My crew led to then began calling for help but I was mainly focused on the extreme pain. I was feeling all else was in oblivion to me.

To Whom it may concern,

On Thursday November 6 2014 Overtime crew ([REDACTED], and [REDACTED]) was dispatched to [REDACTED] Scottsdale dr to service a sewer lateral. Upon arrival we attempted to video the lateral and could not pass at the area where the cable tv conduit was installed. At this time we started exposing the marked utilities by hand. We had exposed the gas main, ATT conduit, and a electrical conduit. We then placed boards on the open trench and made the area safe because we were dispatched to an emergency relief at approximately 6:30 pm. On Friday 11-7-2014 Crew 4 was dispatched back to [REDACTED] Scottsdale dr. The crew Members were [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was picked up about 11:45am to attend a staff meeting. We spent the morning exposing the remaining marked utilities. We located all marked out utilities. At this point we started to remove the lateral up to the point where we couldn't pass with the camera. Once the lateral was removed to said point we were able to pass the camera through the lateral. We saw numerous roots and offsets throughout the remainder of the lateral and determined that it needs to be replaced. We could not see anything that resembled any type of pipe or wire due to the severe roots. There was not enough time remaining on the shift to proceed so I instructed [REDACTED] to install a temp and set boards and barricades. At this point he attempted to install a 3 inch pipe inside of the 4 inch clay but couldn't get it to insert. [REDACTED] stated that he was hitting the roots and that they needed to be cut out of the way to make the 3 inch pipe fit. [REDACTED] attempted to pull out the roots with a manhole hook with no success. [REDACTED] then asked [REDACTED] for the Sawzall and inserted the blade inside the 4 Inch clay and started to cut out the roots. At this time a large explosion occurred and [REDACTED] was thrown back approximately 4 feet then jumped out of the trench. At this time another explosion occurred and we cleared the area and barricade off the area. Homeowners started coming out stating that their power had gone off. I called My Supervisor ([REDACTED]) and informed him of what had happened and then called City dispatch to have them call 911. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived at the scene shortly after the call. Phone call to [REDACTED] was at 1:20 pm. Medics arrived and took [REDACTED] to the hospital. He had obvious burns to his arms, face and hair. PG&E arrived within about 30 minutes. At this point they did not know what had been cut as their USA markings were 9 feet in towards the property but after further investigation they determined that the cut item was indeed one of their high voltage wire that was drilled through the sewer lateral by a subcontractor back in the 90's. This wire was not marked out by USA. This wire was totally covered up by roots and could not be identified by the video or flashing. At 3:30 PG&E requested that we dig around the wire so they could access it for repair which I did. Once the wire was exposed more we lifted out of the lateral and installed the 3 inch temp and boarded up the job. We installed a steel trench plate over the area in the road and secured the area at 6:30.

[REDACTED]

Friday, NOV 7, 2014 Crew #4 [REDACTED]

We were in the process of installing a temporary sewer lateral at [REDACTED] Scottsdale Dr. The trench was dug out, all marked utilities were clearly exposed. We needed to slip in a 3" ABS piece of pipe in order to complete the temp hook up. Something inside the lateral, out in the street, was blocking us from installing the 3" pipe. We needed to slip in the 3" pipe into the 4" clay lateral in the street near the curb. The only utility marked near that area was cable TV, which we located and exposed.

[REDACTED] was in the trench. The intrusion appeared to be a root and we had no idea there was a utility out there as it was not marked. [REDACTED] used a saw to cut through intrusion that was inside the sewer lateral. A loud explosion, and a flash of flames resulted. [REDACTED] was thrown back. He then quickly exited the trench. It was about 1:30 pm when this occurred. [REDACTED] was conscious the whole time, but suffered burns on his arms and irritation of his eyes. Necessary phone calls were made. Police, fire, sewer supervisor, arrived. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]