



SHARED LEARNINGS

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE

High Risk Tasks: Excavations in proximity to High Pressure Gas Mains

Issued to:	All Operational colleagues and Service Providers
Date of Incident:	09/12/2025
Location:	Sutton Field Road, Sutton, Doncaster
Classification:	Service Provider Near Miss
Contact:	Health, Safety & Training
Issue Date:	07/01/2026

OVERVIEW

Last month one of our service providers was working on a LV sentry box at Sutton Field Road, Sutton, Doncaster, which was near a high-pressure gas pipeline. The team were tasked to trace two LV cables from the base of a pole for approximately 5m and then excavate joint bays.

The team were unaware that the excavation area was 2m away from a pipeline exclusion zone and they continued to work until they were stopped by the pipeline operator who made them aware of the close infringement.

Although the operations were outside the exclusion zone and no work was to take place closer to the pipeline this critical information was not communicated to the site team.

How could this have been prevented?

A [Line Search Before You Dig](#) check should have been carried out when planning the excavation works, which would have shown the high pressure pipeline close to the work area and details of the pipeline operator so that the necessary safety advice could be obtained.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Corrective Actions Taken:

- **Dangers of HP Oil and Gas Pipelines-** Remind our colleagues and service providers that High Pressure Oil and Gas Pipelines are highly hazardous and protected by legislation to prevent damage. Striking or damaging these assets can result in **serious injury, fatalities, and significant environmental harm.**
- **Prior Utility Search** - when planning check for oil and gas pipelines using **Line Search Before You Dig.**
- **Utility Plans** - Review utility plans before excavating.
- **Detection process-** Physical detection and marking of nearby known services prior to excavations.
- **Emergency Preparedness-** Remind our colleagues and service providers of our reporting procedure via EcoOnline.

