



## *Safety Advice 10-2013 (Apr)(NZ)*

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This Safety Alert 10-2013 (Apr) (NZ), dated 22.4.13 from Transpower, outlines an incident where a small rock fell from a digger bucket breaking a gas pipeline.

This incident highlights safety issues when working in close proximity to other underground utility assets.

No Injuries were sustained as a result of this incident, and a full outline follows this safety advice

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# FIRST ALERT

Date: 22/04/2013

## Falling rock damages gas pipeline

### EVENT

During the night shift on 22/04/2013 rock was being removed from a trench with a 22 tonne digger and was being loaded on to a truck at Ti Rakau Drive.

A rock fell out of the excavator bucket, striking a gas pipeline (65mm yellow plastic conduit). The velocity and weight (the drop was approximately 3.2 metres) of the rock created a pin hole in the line.

The gas pipe was known to the excavation gang and was fully exposed at time of incident.



### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Emergency Services (Fire and Police) were called.
- Owners of the pipeline (Vector) were called, the supply was switched off and the pipeline was repaired.
- An Exclusive Safety Zone was erected around the area by NZ Fire Services Work.
- **Ensure that buckets are not over-filled when removing material adjacent to services and/or lifting over services.**
- **Place protective covers over services when working over them.**