

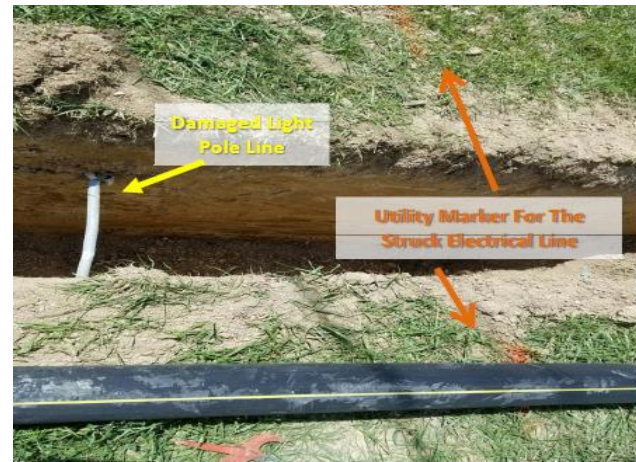


Safety Office

Mishap Lessons Learned



Subject: Underground Conduit/Excavator Incident



Event: An underground conduit was struck while digging a gas line trench. Prior to the incident a locator was used to detect utility lines along the trench path. No utilities were found so the operator started exploratory digging which is a scraping motion with the excavator bucket to uncover suspected underground installations. It was during this operation that the utility line was uncovered and damaged. There was a spotter working in coordination with the excavator, there were no injuries to either of the workers. Post incident inspection identified damage to the wire conduit but the wires remained intact. The excavator was not damaged.

Root Cause(s):

- The Contract did not contact the local utility company or owners of area before starting excavation work.

Recommendations:

- The Contractor needs to contact the local utility company or owners within established or customary local response times, advised of the proposed work, and asked to establish the location of the utility underground installations prior to the start of actual excavation.