

Contractor's Guide to Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines

4. What to do in an emergency

If you uncover ground near or have any contact with a HP pipeline, be that with mechanical equipment or otherwise, is potentially a serious incident and should be treated as an emergency situation. Please:

1. Shut down all working machinery
2. Remove all sources of ignition
3. Remove everyone from the immediate area of the pipeline and move to a safer area upwind of the location
4. If the pipeline is leaking dial 999 inform police and emergency services
5. Do not attempt to seal a leaking pipeline
6. If the leak is burning, do not attempt to extinguish the fire
7. Contact the pipeline operator's emergency telephone number. This can be obtained either from on a nearby pipeline marker post, on all communications you will have had from the pipeline operator or on the documentation provided by the pipeline operator prior to you commencing work
8. Follow the advice provided by the pipeline operator and then let them make the situation safe
9. Where possible keep all people and traffic well away from the location

This Good Practice Guide is aimed at contractors and any one else who may work near High Pressure pipelines (specifically buried pipelines) and outlines what you can do to reduce the risks when working near them. Working near high pressure pipelines is dangerous. If machinery makes contact with the pipeline, damage can occur that could result in immediate failure or failure over a longer period of time.

It is common for utility companies, highways agency and / or landowners (amongst others) to instruct contractors to complete works. It is however the responsibility of the contractor to ensure any proposed works are planned correctly and precautions made to protect high pressure pipelines where appropriate.

Prior to working in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines, as indicated in section 3, you should contact the pipeline operator who will provide any guidance and advice necessary to adequately plan the works.

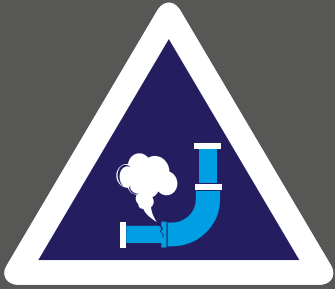
Further Assistance and Pipeline Operators

The UKOPA website contains the company information details for all UKOPA members, visit www.ukopa.co.uk/emergency/

The UKOPA presentation about working safely near high pressure pipelines can be found at www.ukopa.co.uk/relevant-documents-and-information please do take a look at this and share with any staff and contractors working for you. The HSE guidance document HSG47 - Avoiding danger from underground services - is also a helpful document.

Pipeline operators are here to help, so please do contact them prior to any work taking place or if you have any queries.

1 Hazards



This Good Practice Guide is aimed at contractors and any one else who may work near High Pressure pipelines (specifically buried pipelines) and outlines what you can do to reduce the risks when working near them. Working near high pressure pipelines is dangerous. If machinery makes contact with the pipeline, damage can occur that could result in immediate failure or failure over a longer period of time. Such as: explosion resulting in the death of people nearby or extensive environmental damage

It is common for utility companies, highways agency and / or landowners (amongst others) to instruct contractors to complete works. It is however the responsibility of the contractor to ensure any proposed works are planned correctly and precautions made to protect high pressure pipelines where appropriate.

Prior to working in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines, as indicated in section 3, you should contact the pipeline operator who will provide any guidance and advice necessary to adequately plan the works.

2 Notifiable Activities

If you are planning or working in the vicinity of High Pressure Pipelines, you should contact the pipeline operator who will provide any guidance and advice required.



2.1 Construction Works

Such as, but not limited to:

- Installation of water pipes, drains or sewers or other services/utilities
- Electrical installations/works
- Property extensions (including permitted development)
- Change of use of existing buildings
- Erecting sheds or summer houses/installation of hard standings



2.2 Roadworks

Such as, but not limited to:

- Breaking Ground
- Construction of temporary or permanent tracks/road



2.3 Excavations

- All excavation works (such as, but not limited to, open cut, vacuum excavating, new services, repair work, etc) are notifiable activities.
- You should contact the pipeline operator at the planning stage in order that the correct advice can be obtained.



2.4 Piling, Boring and Seismic Surveys

Please contact the pipeline operator who will be more than happy to discuss any potential issues and specific requirements with you.



2.5 Heavy Vehicle Crossing



Special requirements are needed for heavy vehicles to cross over HP pipelines. Please contact the pipeline operator who will provide specific advice.

2.6 Fencing



Installation of new or replacement fences / fence posts or gateposts.

2.7 Ground Cover & Storage of Materials

- Depth of cover must not be reduced or increased
- Materials not stacked or stored in the vicinity of the pipeline or within pipeline easements.



2.8 Planting of Trees & Shrubs and other garden work

Planting within the easement should not take place without prior discussion with the pipeline operator.



2.9 Fires

Should not be built or ignited within the pipeline easement.



2.10 Wind turbines and solar farms



Contact pipeline operator at earliest possibility (UKOPA have produced good practice guides for both).

2.11 All other works

Please contact the pipeline operator for any other work not covered in this document, they will be more than happy to discuss any potential issues.



3 Information, Instruction & Training



Staff and contractors may be at an increased level of risk when they are working in the vicinity of any High Pressure pipeline. The hazardous nature of these pipelines is recognised in UK legislation through the Pipeline Safety Regulation 1996 (PSR), in particular Regulation 15 which states "No person shall cause such damage to a pipeline as it may give rise to a danger to persons Please make sure they know where the pipelines are and discuss and agree with them the precautions they need to take before they start work. More detailed instructions may be needed for those workers whose first language is not English.

The location of a pipeline is normally indicated by marker posts at the edges of fields and road verges. Remember though that marker posts can be accidentally moved or damaged. Also, there may be more than one pipeline present and pipelines may not necessarily run in a straight line between posts. By contacting the pipeline operator in advance, an operator representative can visit your land to locate and mark out the pipeline, and advise what works can and cannot be done safely. In some cases, monitoring may be required whilst work is being carried out.