

What to do in an emergency

If, as a result of the activities you uncover ground or come into contact with a pipeline, then:

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
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. Where possible keep all people and traffic well away from the location.

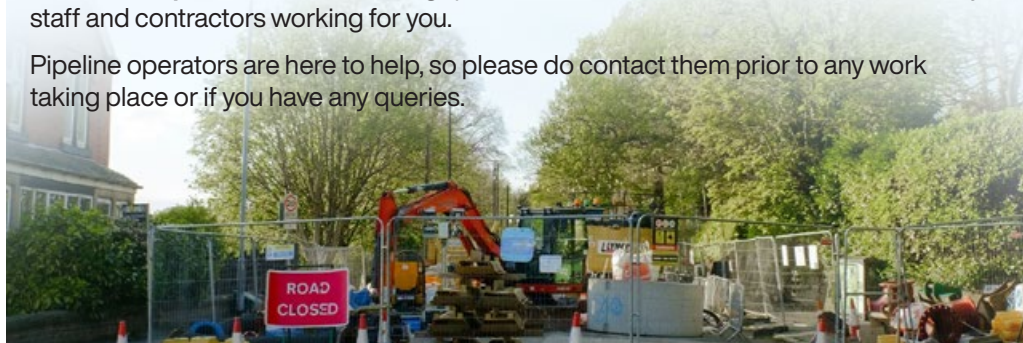
For more information please contact:

Further Assistance and Pipeline Operators

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

The UKOPA presentation about working safely near high pressure pipelines can be found at ukopa.co.uk/safe-working/ please do take a look at this and share with any staff and contractors working for you.

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

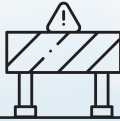


Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines

This guide is to provide advice to anyone in construction working near buried High Pressure pipelines. It explains how to reduce risks, as contact from machinery can cause immediate or long-term damage.



UKOPA



Hazards

This guide is to provide advice to contractors and anyone else who may work within 50m of high pressure pipelines (specifically buried pipelines) and outlines what you should do to ensure workers stay safe when carrying out work 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, an 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 contractors and all those working on site, to ensure that any proposed works are planned and carried out correctly and precautions made to protect high pressure pipelines where appropriate.

Notifiable activities



Prior to working in the vicinity of High Pressure Pipelines, other than routine agricultural activities such as ploughing, you must contact the pipeline operator who will provide pipe location details and any guidance and advice required. The following are notifiable activities. →

Roadworks



Such as, but not limited to:

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

Piling, boring & surveys



Any piling, boring or subterranean surveying activities within 50m of the pipeline.

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

Garden work & planting



All excavations within 50m of the pipeline, including planting and ground works.



Heavy vehicle crossing



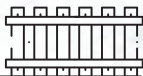
Special requirements are needed for heavy vehicles to cross over high pressure pipelines.

Fires



Should not be built or ignited within the pipeline easement.

Fencing



The installation of new or replacement fences / fence posts or gateposts or any other fencing activities within 50m of the pipeline.

Wind turbines & solar farms



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

Cover & materials storage



Materials must not be stacked or stored in the vicinity of the pipeline or within pipeline easements.

Information & training



Anyone in the work area 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 Pipelines 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 everyone knows where the high pressure pipeline/s are and any restrictions and precautions required, are in place, prior to work starting. Clarification 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.

Construction work



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) or change of use
- Erecting sheds or summer houses/installation of hard standings
- Large scale developments for housing with various new infrastructure inc services, roads, footpaths, drainage.

Remember though that marker posts can be accidentally moved or damaged. By contacting the pipeline operator in advance, an operator representative can visit your site 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. The location of a pipeline is normally a FREE service.

Contact the pipeline operator for any other work not covered in this document, they will be more than happy to discuss any potential issues. Further advice on safe working can be found at: ukopa.co.uk/safe-working/