



What happened?

- A utility company installed a temporary road over a gas pipeline without the pipeline operator's authorisation or supervision
- The location of the pipeline was known to the utility company as were the procedures that they were required to follow

Findings and key learning points

- A utility company required to install a power cable duct under several pipelines
- The utility company were in possession of all pipeline information and had prepared an approved design for the duct and both temporary and permanent road crossings. They were also aware of the pipeline operators required procedures
- However, the utility company's principal contractor proceeded to strip 250 – 300 mm of top-soil from above the pipelines without permission
- The utility company held an internal investigation resulting in several actions: removal of certain personnel, daily tool-box talks & safety meetings, tightening of the blanket no-dig zone, clearly designated crossing points

Recommendation

- Operators should be aware that despite contractors having all the necessary information and procedures, rules may not be adhered to
- Operators may need to consider increasing their representation at work sites