

UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

IWG Update October 2024

Carl Scott
IWG Chair

www.ukopa.co.uk



Introduction

- The aim of the UKOPA Infringement Working Group (IWG) is to provide information and expert opinion, direction and guidance on pipeline safety to UKOPA members and industry stakeholders.
- Chair – Carl Scott
- 26 people
- 21 UKOPA member organisations.
- Recently updated Terms of Reference for 2024.



Microsoft Word
17 - 2003 Document

IWG Objectives

- To share knowledge and good practice on pipeline safety between UKOPA members.
- To produce and maintain pipeline safety good practice guides and technical briefing notes.
- To develop, maintain, review and update systems and processes for monitoring pipeline infringement data.
- To review, interpret, consult and influence Regulators' proposals for pipeline safety.
- To represent UKOPA, where appropriate, on external safety groups.

September 2024 IWG meeting

- 3rd meeting of the year took place in Esso Birmingham Oil Terminal 17th September.
 - An excellent meeting where the group discussed the 2023 infringement database, had a discussion with the HSE and discussed 2024 projects to date and also starting to talk about 2025 budget and ideas, however we need the infringement report to help define the areas of focus.

Update

2024 Work Programme update

- 2023 Infringement Report. We have finally got all of the Data and the report will be ready soon.
- Updated our Landex e-learning module and making it accessible on the UKOPA website.
- Reviewed Good Practice Guides GPG 015 / 029
- Sub group working on UKOPA's own Pipeline awareness video.
- Participated in Farm Safety Foundation's Yellow Wellies Campaign and produced an article for Farmers weekly.

Infringement Database



- The 2023 infringement report is almost ready to be published.
- We missed our target of receiving all data by February.
- The IWG are working hard to resolve any data input issues that are delaying this with our aim being to collect all data by the end of February 2025 for the 2024 database. (please help us to help you!)
- Any questions or issues you may have on inputting the data please get in contact with either myself or Nikki and we will be more than happy to help.

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UKOPA Report

2022 Infringement database report

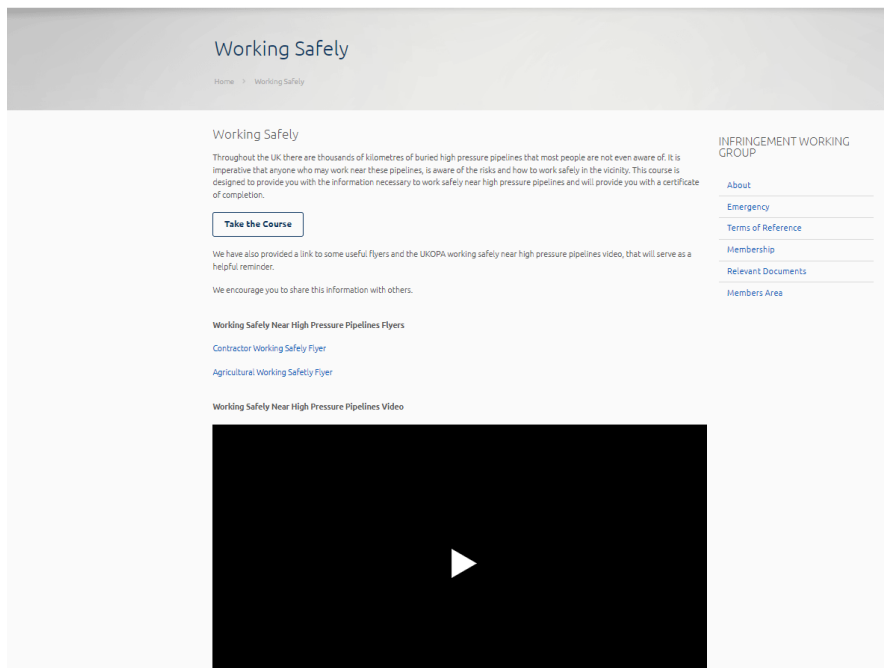
UKOPA/RP/23/02 draft 1 for comment

November 2023

Working with Agricultural Colleges (Landex)

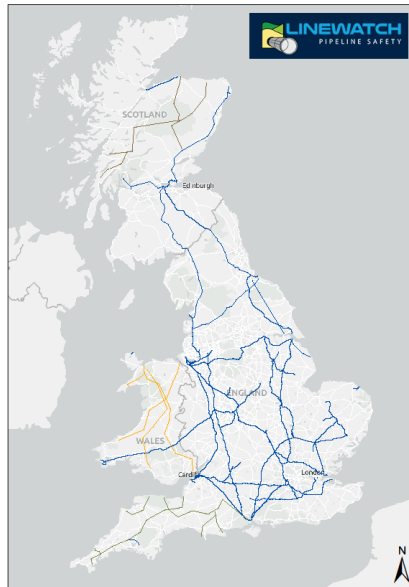


- 2024 has seen a newly updated and improved Working safely around high pressure pipelines course.
- We are happy to announce the course is now Live on the UKOPA website.



- With the course being opened up to UKOPA members and anyone within their organisations (including any contractors working around pipelines) we hope to hugely increase the user numbers in 2024.

Example slides from the course.



UKOPA Overview

UKOPA (UK On Shore Pipeline Operators Association) is an industry group comprised of **30** UK onshore HP pipeline operators.

The length of pipelines operated by our members is nearly **30,000km** (nearly 5 times the distance between London and New York).

A recognised and authoritative view:



Good Practice Guides & Technical Bulletin

It produces Good Practice Guides and Technical Bulletins and carries out research to support the industry.

High pressure pipelines

- HP pipelines are the most efficient and safest way to transport large quantities of hydrocarbon products over large distances.
- They transport hydrocarbon products including gas, crude oil and petrochemicals
- HP pipelines are predominately made of steel
- HP pipelines are wrapped in a protective coating (which can easily be damaged)
- They are nominally laid at 1.1 mtrs deep (although this might vary)
- They can be anything from approximately 6" to 42" in diameter
- They operate at up to 120 bar - approximately 50 times the pressure of a car tyre
- They run cross country (through farmland, under roads and rivers)
- Most of us are unaware that they are there

Contacting a pipeline operator

- Pipeline operators engage with landowners on a regular basis, including:
 - An annual letter
 - Prior to any line walking taking place
 - Before any other works are conducted
- Pipeline operators contact details will be on maker posts that are found on field boundaries, where pipelines change directions and road crossings
- Contact details are also included on any communications received from pipeline operators
- On the pipeline operator website
- Please contact the pipeline operator prior to undertaking work, operators services are (normally) free of charge

<https://www.ukopa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Contractor-Working-Safely-Jan20.pdf>

IWG –Good Practice Guides



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Good Practice Guide
Managing Pipeline Infringements
UKOPA/GP/015 Edition 1
April 2018

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Good Practice Guide
Local Authority Planners information regarding On Shore
Pipelines and Associated Installations
UKOPA/GP/029 Edition 1
January 2019

Due 2024:

UKOPA/GPG/15 Managing pipeline infringements – The final small changes are currently being made before this will be published, hopefully by the end of October.

UKOPA/GPG/29 Local Authority Planners information regarding On Shore Pipelines and Associated Installations – A sub group has reviewed the document and changes currently being approved before being published.

Hazard awareness video

- An IWG sub-group has been set up to create a safety awareness video.
- It has been decided that we will create 3 short videos , post knocking, fencing , ditching & utility works are to be incorporated within the 3 short videos with a story board to be created for each one.
- The sub group are currently creating each storyboard before being sent to our specialist company who will create the videos based on our stories.



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Media Update

FARMERS
WEEKLY

- We have started a programme of feature articles in key target publications – aiming to reduce infringements and improve safety
 - Farmers Weekly – Working safely
- Supporting Farm Safety Foundation's Yellow Wellies Campaign – Farm Safety Week
- Activities looking to promote positive attitudes towards safety on farm in conjunction with HSE and NFU Mutual



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WORKING SAFELY NEAR BURIED PIPELINES

With the unseasonably wet weather the UK has experienced this year, Carl Scott, Chair of UKOPA Pipeline Infringement Working Group, outlines best practices when installing land drains, clearing ditches, or undertaking other works near buried pipelines.



Britain has more than 27,000 km of buried pipelines used to transport a range of products at high pressures of up to 100 bar. This includes flammable and explosive products such as oil, natural gas, ethylene, and petroleum, as well as less obviously hazardous materials such as water. Prior to working in the vicinity of high-pressure pipelines, landowners are required to contact the pipeline operator. UKOPA members ask that they are notified for any works within 50m of a pipeline, particularly if the pipeline is known to be at a shallow depth. They will provide safety guidance and advice including coming out and marking out the pipeline to enable the farmer to carry on with the required activities.

Contractors, employees and temporary staff working on the land also need to be informed of the pipeline locations to discuss and agree on the necessary precautions before starting work. Agricultural activities that pose a significant risk to pipelines include the installation or repair of drainage pipes and clearing ditches. Such activities often require heavy machinery and can easily excavate close to the pipeline's nominal depth of 1m. To prevent risks to landowner and pipeline, anyone planning works (e.g. ditching, tracing, digging, or mole ploughing) within 5 metres of a buried pipeline must obtain permission

from the pipeline operator. This is not to prevent the works, but simply to ensure they are undertaken safely.

The locations of pipelines are normally indicated by marker posts at the edges of fields; however, marker posts can be accidentally moved or damaged, and pipelines may not run in a straight line between posts and aerial markers.

The depth of the pipeline's cover may also be reduced in parts, so contact the pipeline operator or use Line Search (www.labud.co.uk) so they can advise on the exact location of the pipeline. Pipeline operators can arrange to visit sites, trace and accurately mark out the exact pipeline location, and provide guidance on safe working while near to the pipeline.

To help ensure the best and safest outcomes for all, farmers or contractors are advised not to undertake any works within three metres of a buried pipeline. If planning works, please:

- Never assume the route or depth of pipeline.
- Give pipeline operators sufficient notice before works begin.
- Do not proceed with works until consent is given by the pipeline operator.
- Be aware that pipeline depths vary and can often be found less than 1m below the surface.
- Remember pipelines do not always run in straight lines between marker posts.
- Be aware that other safety-critical infrastructure, such as cables, valve chambers and

standpipes, can be buried along the pipeline lengths; these can be found at even shallower depths than the pipeline.

Landowner Responsibilities

Damage to pipelines can pose a significant risk to life, as well as potentially serious environmental damage if a product is released. It can also lead to prosecution by the HSE as Regulation 15 of the Pipelines Safety Regulations Act states: "No person shall cause such damage to a pipeline as may give rise to dangers to persons".

Working near pipelines without taking the correct precautions can have serious consequences and potential prosecution. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that employees, contractors and others operating on their land comply with regulations.

As well as potential prosecution, damage to the pipeline could lead to environmental harm through serious pollution of soil, water, and the atmosphere, which is likely to lead to prosecution by the Environment Agency. The cost of repair and subsequent clean-up is likely to exceed £1m.

If in doubt, contact your pipeline operator who is there to help. The UKOPA website (www.ukopa.co.uk) also provides more information on how to work safely around high-pressure pipelines.

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Food For Thought!

Massive pipeline fire burning near Houston began after a vehicle struck a valve, officials say!!



An evacuation area included nearly 1,000 homes and initial shelter orders included schools.



DEER PARK, Texas (AP) — A towering flame gradually subsided Tuesday morning in the aftermath of a massive pipeline explosion after a vehicle drove through a fence and struck an above-ground valve, officials said.



Food For Thought!



Food For Thought!

- Prevention of incidents like that we have just seen is exactly why the IWG is in existence.
- As a group we ask you all, PLEASE share any infringements / near misses or anything that you feel could be of benefit to prevent any major accidents like this happening right here in the UK.
- If you have anything you would like to share please email John Ferrari with a photo and a few lines of what's happened and he will happily produce the safety share for you.
- John Ferrari - vasco.consulting23@gmail.com