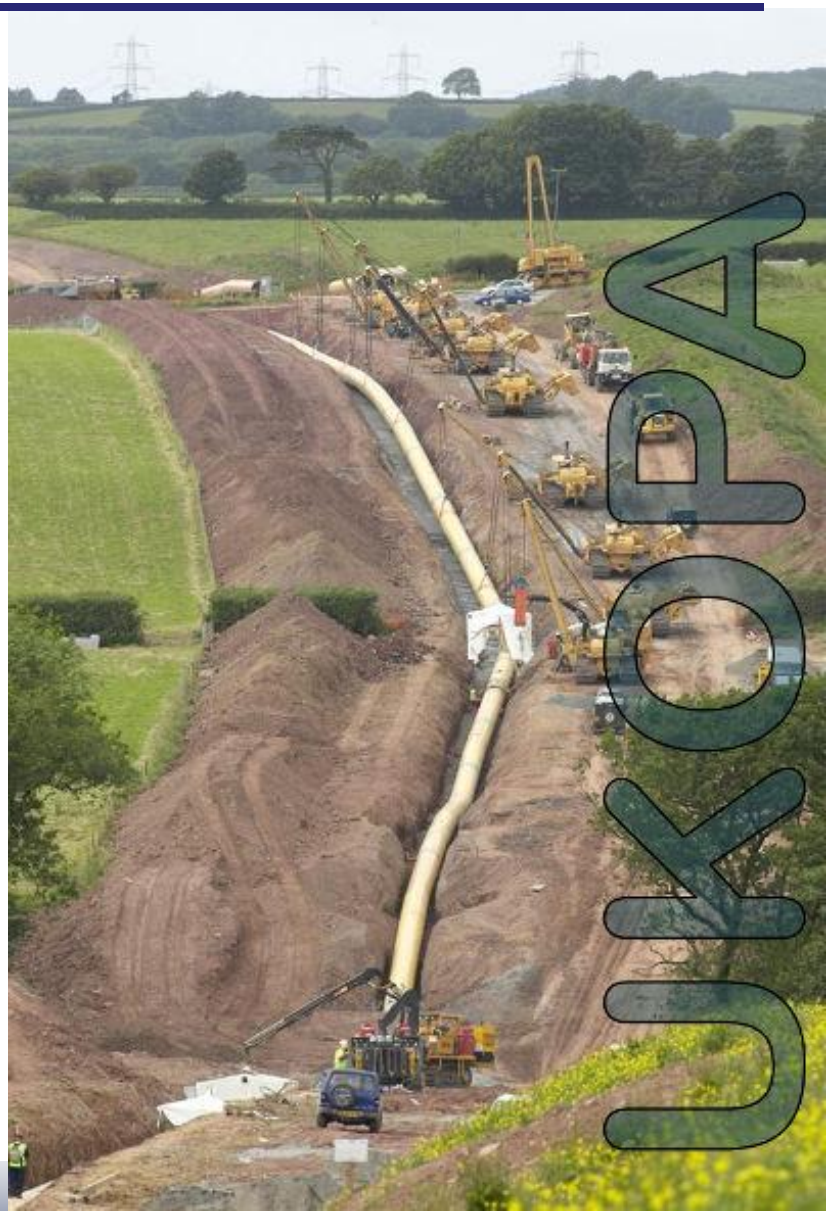
UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

IWG Update
February 2025

Carl Scott

IWG Chair



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
  - Vice Chair – Clark Findlay
  - 26 people
  - 21 UKOPA member organisations.
  - updated Terms of Reference in January 2024.

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.

January 2025 IWG meeting

- 1st meeting of the year took place at the Ineos offices in Grangemouth.
  - Highly Attended both in person and on Teams
  - An excellent meeting where we discussed the 2024 infringement database, our work plan for 2025, Shared a call with a production company To plan our safety videos for 2025 and NG very kindly shared information on their Wayleave clearance project.
  - Both the workplan and budget where prepared for this weeks board members meeting.

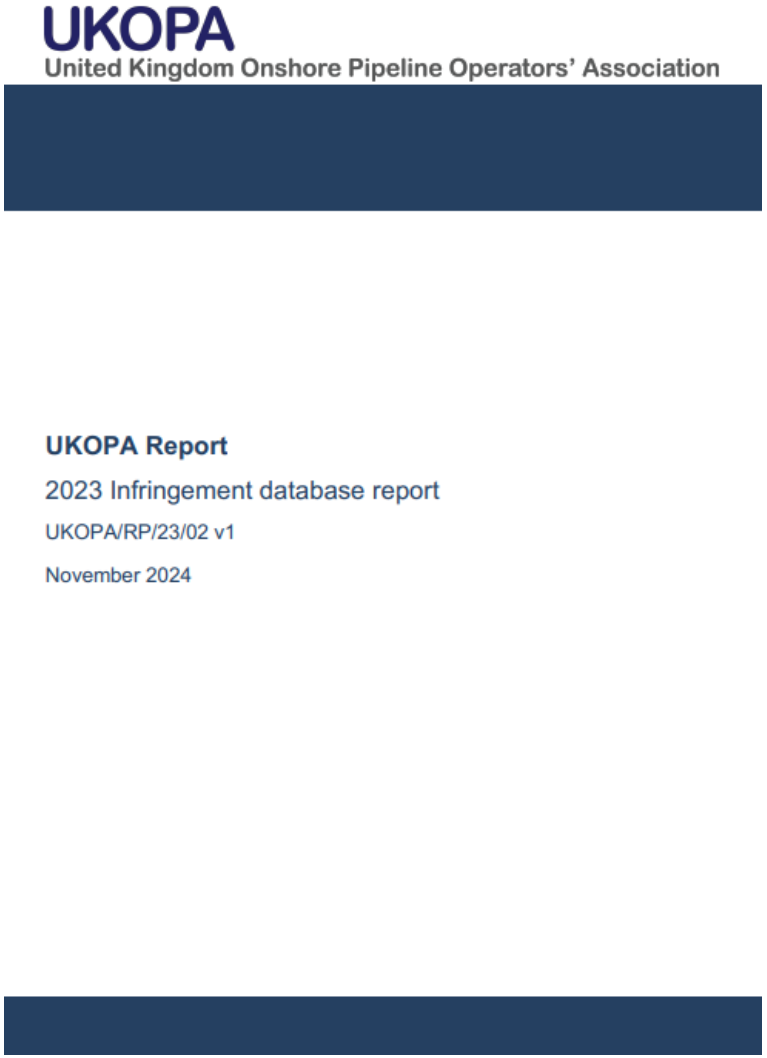
Update

2025 Work Programme

- Compile 2024 Infringement Report. The aim is to get all the data in by the end of Q1.
- To increase the volume of users on our Landex safe digging E-learning.
- Review guidance documents for ‘Working safely around high pressure pipelines’.
- To have another successful advertising campaign aimed at a certain industry.
- Create UKOPA’s own Pipeline awareness video’s, 3 storyboards have been created and discussions started with a production company.

Infringement Database

- The 2023 infringement report was not published until November 2024..
- This means the Data in the report can be up to almost 2 years out of date.
- 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 Q1 each year with the Infringement database report being published during Q2.
- There were a total of 662 infringements recorded in the database this is 139 less than in 2022, equivalent to a 17.4% decrease, With NO A1 infringements recorded at all.



Working with Agricultural Colleges (Landex)

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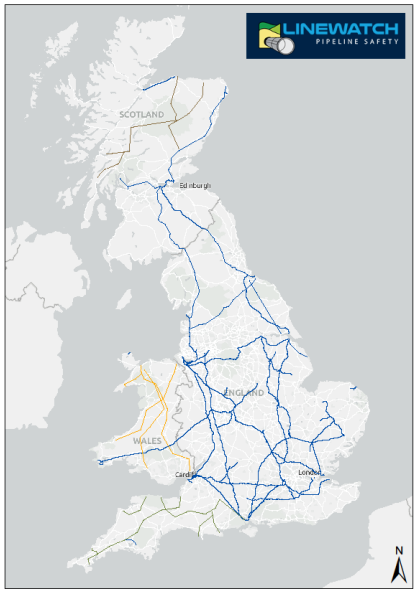
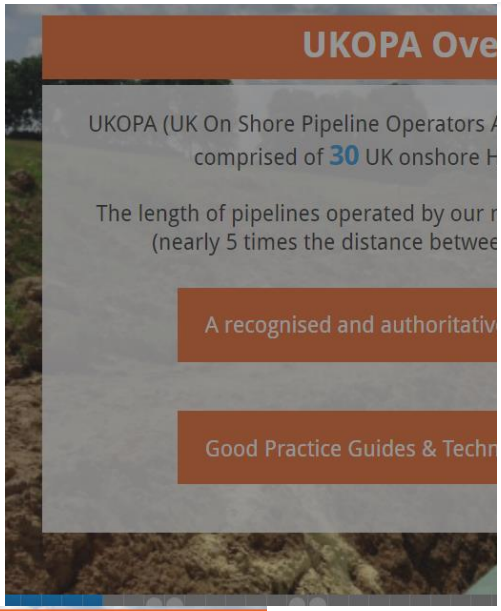
- Original objective was to integrate a learning module with the next generation of people working in agricultural field or likely to encounter pipelines to promote pipeline awareness.
- Learning module has been rolled out to Landex colleges for 3 years and in 2025 we are bringing it to UKOPA's website for use of ALL members and their organisations, with a certificate published for every individual who passes the course.
- Course statistics.
  - All 33 Landex Colleges have accessed the materials
  - Over 5000 users have completed the course.
  - Over 90% of users who completed the course received C- grade or higher (70%)
  - Average session duration - 28mins
  - Please see below figures for 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.
    - Pipeline course visits by registered college students = 567
    - Pipeline course visits by guests = 2,327
    - Total visits = 2,893

Example slides from the course.





LAND BASED LEARNING

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CERTIFICATE

OF COURSE COMPLETION

[redacted]

FROM

[redacted]

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

HP PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION AWARENESS COURSE

ON

February 20, 2025

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

IWG –Good Practice Guides

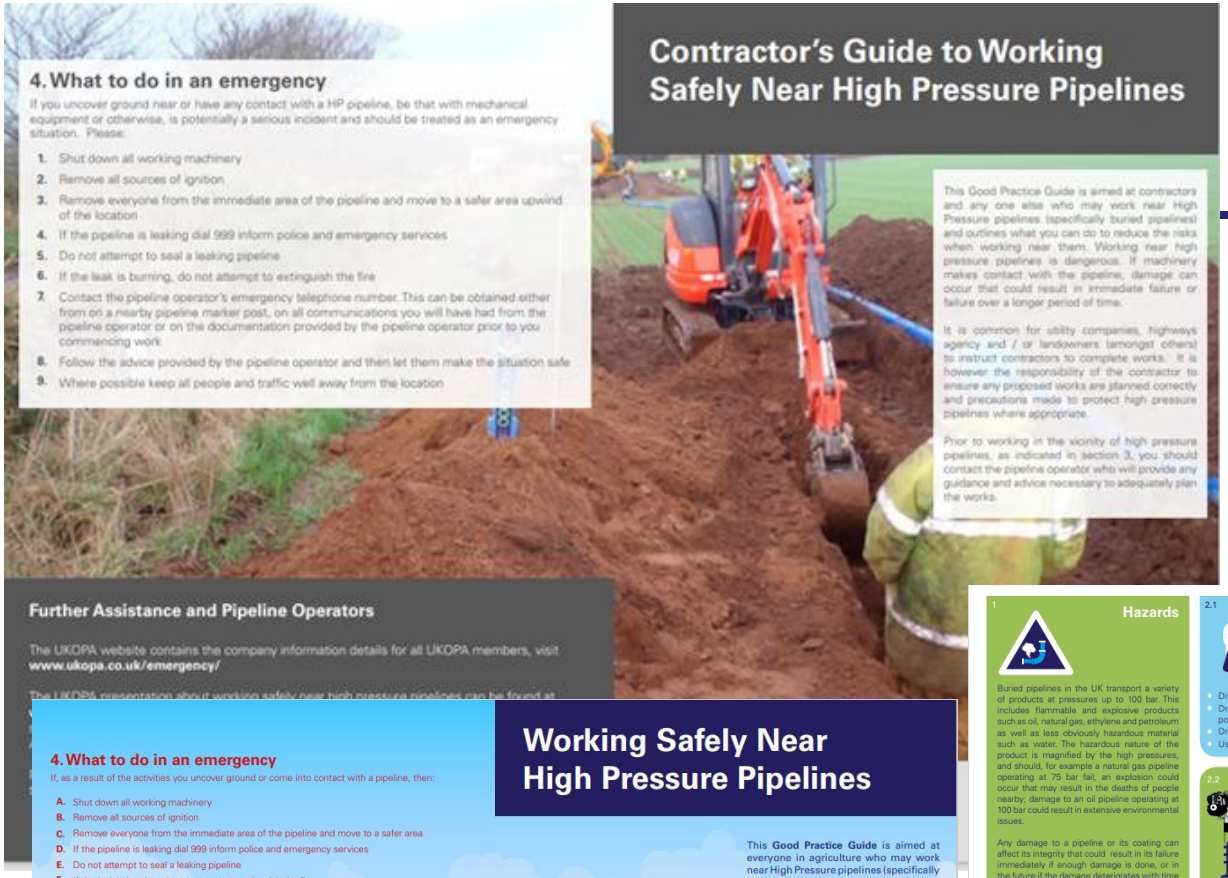
Reviewed in 2024:

UKOPA/GPG/15 Managing pipeline infringements

UKOPA/GPG/29 Local Authority Planners information regarding On Shore Pipelines and Associated Installations

In 2025:

Review guidance documents for ‘Working safely around high pressure pipelines’.



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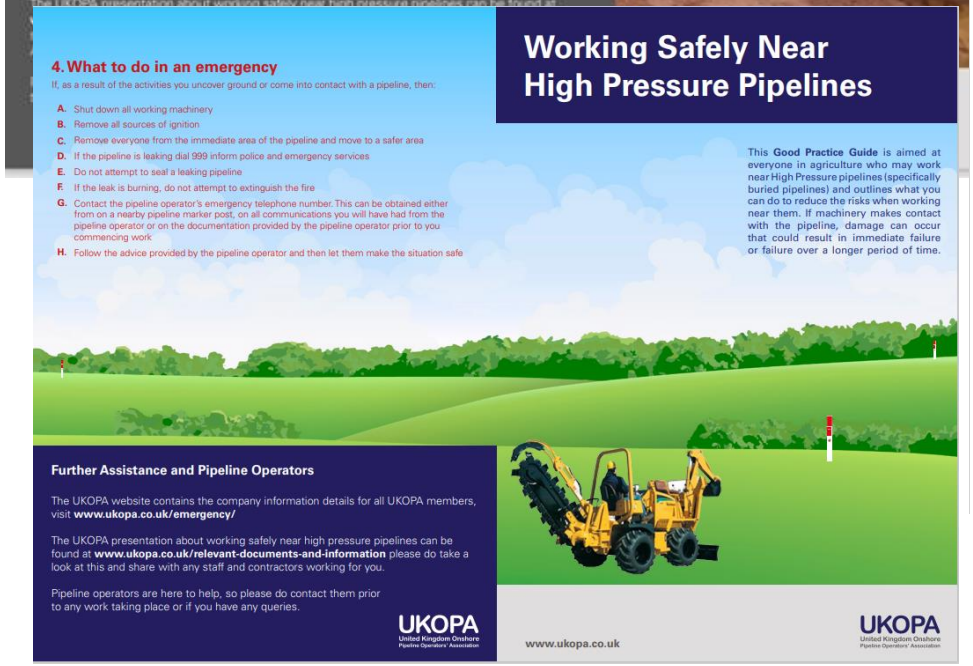

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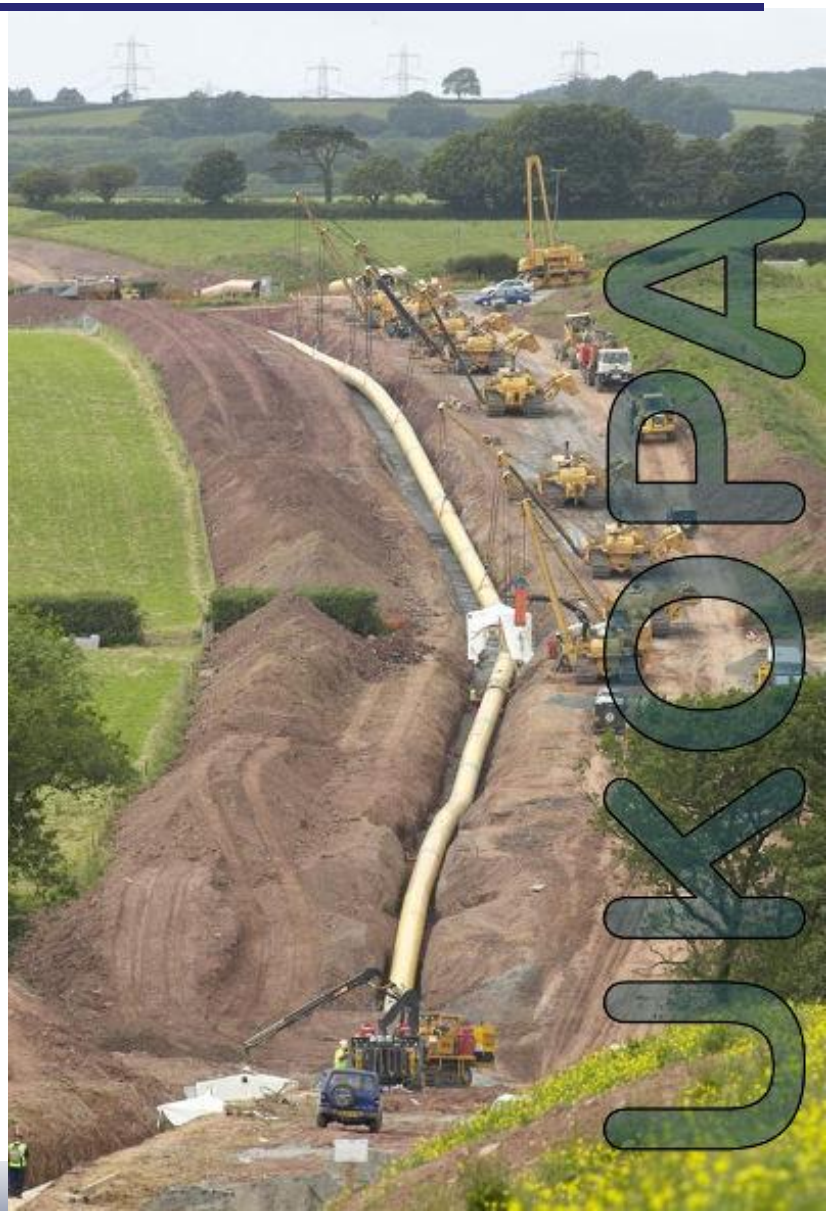

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Natural gas pipeline rupture

EPSC Learning Sheet February 2025

EPSC

What Happened:

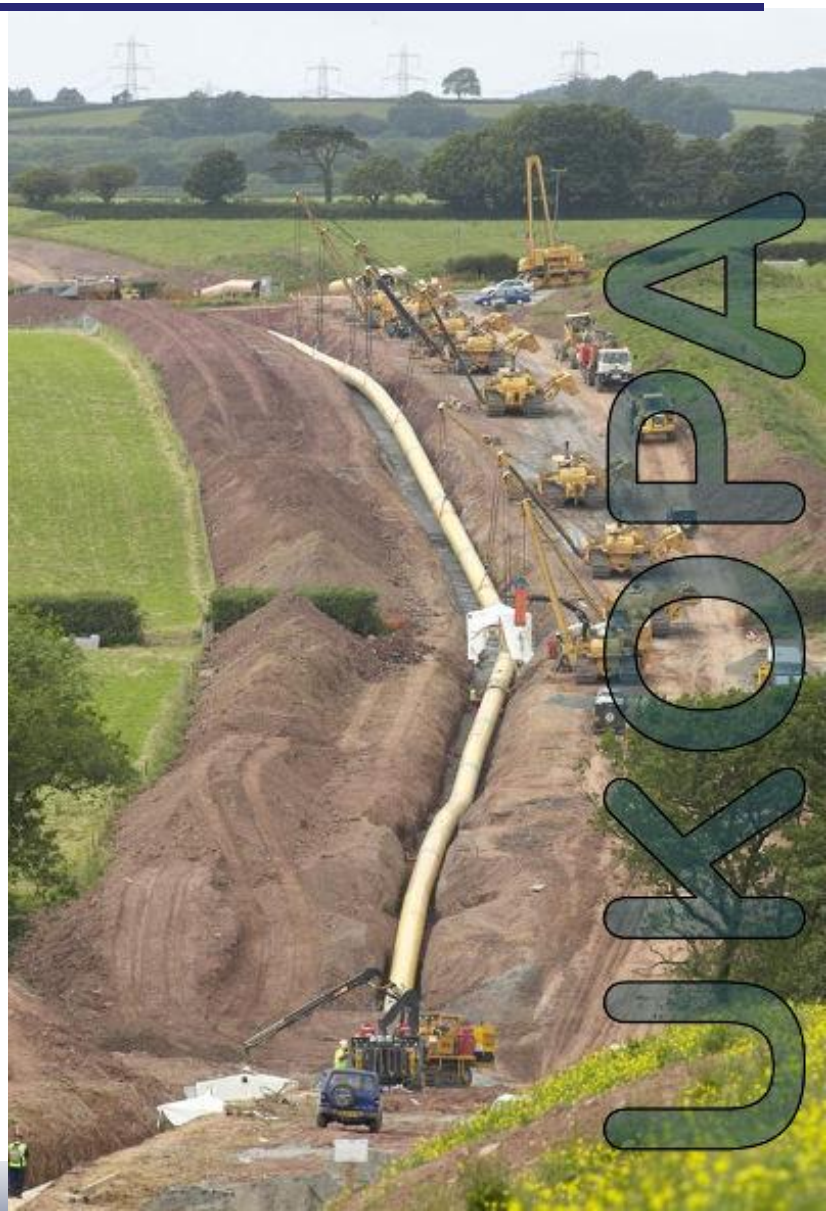
During the dig out of an 80 bar natural gas pipeline for repair, a corrugated steel plate was driven into the pipeline, which then ruptured (Oppau Germany 2014). The released gas exploded and a huge jet fire in a populated area resulted in two fatalities and damages to surroundings.

Aspects:

- Heat radiation damaged buildings and cars in a 200 m radius
- Perform a hazard and risk assessment before starting ground work. Use specific permit to work forms, for approval.
- Know the exact position of underground pipelines before starting ground work. Do not trust maps. Validate the precise location in the field.
- Use of non-aggressive techniques for excavation, like working with hand tools or vacuum cleaners.
- Minimize personnel at the digging location.

Avoid damages to pipelines when doing groundwork

EPSC Learning Sheets are meant to stimulate awareness and discussion on Process Safety
EPSC can not be held liable for the use of this sheet Questions or Contact via www.EPSC.be



Learning Brief

UNAUTHORISED FENCING INSTALLED ABOVE PIPELINE

What happened?

- A fencing contractor erected a fence in a pipeline easement without permission
- One post was inserted directly above the pipeline to a depth of 500 mm
- The pipeline wasn't damaged

Findings and key learning points

- A pipeline operator was contacted by a landowner regarding drainage works
- On arrival at site, the operator's representative noted that a fence had been installed above the pipeline. This had not been authorised.
- The landowner had forgotten to inform the fencing contractor about the pipeline
- One post was directly above the pipeline and although the fencing contractor claimed that the posts were only driven-in to a shallow depth, it was found to be inserted to 500 mm
- The fence-post was adjacent to a pipeline marker post
- The operator explained to the contractor and the land-owner the serious nature of the incident, the potential hazard of striking a pipeline and the correct procedure to follow in future, including the need to contact LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD)
- The post was removed

Recommendation

- Operators to reinforce the message to landowners that it is:
  a) their responsibility to inform contractors and
  b) that they need to contact the operator prior to any works near pipelines

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