

SAFETY ALERT 02/01

DAMAGE TO PIPELINE DURING DRAINAGE OPERATIONS



- **INCIDENT**
 - A drainage contractor was commissioned by a landowner to create a new drainage channel through an existing field. During the excavation the TPE pipeline was struck by the excavator bucket, causing substantial damage to the pipe. Loss of wall thickness of up to 30% was suffered, but there was no release of ethylene.
- **CAUSE OF INCIDENT**
 - Despite frequent communication with the pipeline operator regarding pipeline location and notification of work, the landowner did not inform the operator of his intentions, nor did he alert the drainage contractor to the presence of the pipeline. The drainage contractor did not carry out any checks for underground apparatus.
- **ACTIONS TAKEN**
 - A complete review of the landowner communication programme and provision of pipeline marking was undertaken, with appropriate improvements made.

For further information regarding this Safety Alert please contact SABIC UK Pipelines

Issued by: G L Glover

Approved by: L K Haw

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