



LEARNING FROM INCIDENTS AWARENESS ALERT

Near miss during a piling activity – how well do you manage HSE risks in offsite assets?

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Gas & Power

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What happened

On the 3rd January 2008 an underground pipeline transporting regasified LNG from a JV Regas terminal to customers was hit as a result of a piling activity conducted on a third party premises during heavy construction work. The piling contractor stopped piling after he observed that the pile was not going through. Visual inspection of the pipeline revealed that only the coating of the pipeline was scratched, but that the pipeline itself was not damaged. Following investigation it was noted that 28 piles were driven in close vicinity of the pipeline (see picture). At 4 locations the coating was found slightly damaged and 3 piles were found touching the pipeline. Immediate measures after the incident included evacuation of the area and suspension of all construction activities in the vicinity of the pipeline corridor.



Key findings of incident

The incident investigation revealed the following factors that contributed to the causation of the incident:

- Removal of several pipeline markers on the construction site, which eventually resulted in incorrect mark-up of the pipeline on the construction drawings used by the piling contractor.
- Construction drawings submitted by the third party not checked by JV Regas company to ensure that these drawings reflect the correct routing of the underground pipeline.
- Pipeline patrolling restricted on third party premises and no adequate follow-up on findings reported in pipeline patrolling reports.
- Focus of Regas terminal management was on improving the availability and reliability of the terminal operations following a re-commissioning of the terminal operations in 2006, leading to less focus on outside fence issues.
- Asset ownership, including roles and responsibilities, were not clearly defined for offsite assets in JV Regas company.
- Lack of communication and liaison between both companies over the construction activity.

Following the incident investigation the exact position of the pipeline was re-marked. Missing pipeline markers were restored and construction drawings were updated. Effective communication with the third party company was established to coordinate the construction activities potentially impacting the gas pipeline. Weekly pipeline patrolling was established and findings were discussed to determine follow-up.

Lessons learned

A number of fatalities or high-risk incidents in GP have occurred over the last years at offsite assets or during offsite activities. Incident investigation shows that in most incidents HSE management controls applied, including supervision, were not as rigorous as for onsite assets and activities.

What to do

Assure yourself that the HSE risks associated with the Pipeline Right of Way are adequately managed. How confident are you that HSE risks for offsite assets and activities under your operational control are properly managed? Are offsite assets and activities included in your HSE assurance plan ?



Goal Zero: Zero injuries, Zero fatalities