

## UPDATE – SCUNTHORPE GAS INCIDENT

## WHAT HAPPENED?

- A Contractor colleague was seriously injured whilst undertaking a repair on a 24" diameter Spun Iron Medium Pressure gas main at the junction of Ashby Road and Lloyds Avenue, Scunthorpe on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
- The main suffered a catastrophic fracture resulting in the side of the main breaking away for a significant length of the pipeline (refer to photograph opposite).
- The Contractor who was wearing breathing apparatus at the time of the incident was unable to exit the excavation whilst gas continued to escape.
- This incident is subject to an ongoing High Level Investigation.



## KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- Breathing Apparatus was correctly worn by the Injured Person and was a crucial element in keeping the Injured Person safe.
- Exclusion of ignition sources contributed to making this incident far less serious than it had the potential to become.

## ACTIONS REQUIRED:

**Reminder of current requirements**

- Always take into account the worst case scenario when undertaking your site specific risk assessment by identifying all potential failure modes of pipes, fittings, and equipment.
- Identify what contingency plans / arrangements need to be in place should the worse happen.
- Determine if work is to be carried out at normal network pressure, reduced pressures or whether isolation is necessary.
- Wear your Breathing Apparatus anytime gas concentrations in your breathing zone **are or anticipated to be above 20% LEL**.
- Ensure you have adequate and clear escape route(s).
- Maintain your vigilance whilst working.
- Always adhere to company procedures

**Issuing Manager/Department:** Clare Naunton, Safety Manager, SSR  
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**For more information contact:** Laurence McGurk, Gas Safety Manager on Mobile: 07831 776318