

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Safety and Enforcement Division**  
**Gas Safety and Reliability Branch**  
**Gas Engineering and Compliance Section**

Incident Investigation Report

**Report Date:** 11/27/2023

**Incident Number:** G 20230926-3601

**Utility:** Southern California Gas      SoCalGas

**Date and Time of the Incident:** 9/26/2023, 4:42:00 PM

**Location of the Incident:**      ■■■ Atlantic Ave South Gate, Los Angeles  
South Gate ,CA  
County: Los Angeles

**Summary of Incident:**

On September 26, 2023, at approximately 1642 hours, a third-party subcontractor, Vick Construction, struck a SoCalGas 6-inch steel gas main with a scraper while grading. This incident resulted in damage to the main and release of 6.7mm cubic feet of natural gas. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by the contractor failing to obtain a valid USA ticket prior to the excavation. Therefore, SED did not find any violations of GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR by SoCalGas.

**Casualties:** *Fatalities:* 0    *Injuries:* 0

**Property Damage:** \$55,206.00

**Utility Facilities involved:**

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 6 (inches), MAOP = 60 (psi), Operating Pressure = 50 (psi)

**Witnesses:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1 Jordan Lin	CPUC Investigator	N/A

2	Huy Bui	CPUC Investigator
3	██████████	Pipeline Safety and Complia (213) 407-0168
4	██████████	SoCalGas Field Supervisor
5	██████████	Pipeline Safety and Complia (858) 276-9135
6	██████████	DiqAlert Safety Director (951) 808-8115
7	██████████	BCC Contracting Superinten (951) 207-2952
8	██████████	Vick Construction Supervisor (909) 501-2555

**Evidence:**

	<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	██████████	Data Request received 9/27/2023
2	██████████	In-person interview on 9/27/2023
3	██████████	Initial 420 Report received 9/27/2023
4	██████████	Data Request received 9/28/2023
5	██████████	Phone interview on 9/28/2023
6	██████████	Phone interview on 9/29/2023
7	██████████	Data request received on 10/5/2023
8	██████████	PHMSA F 7100.1 received on 10/26/2023

**Observations and Findings:**

On September 26, 2023, at approximately 1642 hours, a third-party subcontractor, Vick Construction, struck a SoCalGas 6-inch steel gas main with a scraper while grading, at ██████ Atlantic Ave, South Gate, Los Angeles County,. This resulted in damage to the pipeline and an unintentional release of natural gas. There were no injuries, fatalities, fire, service interruption, or third-party property damage report. This incident became CPUC and DOT reportable due to the gas loss exceeding 3mm cubic feet and media coverage.

On September 27, 2023, at 1259 hours, ██████████ Cruz of SoCalGas responded to a data request from SED. ██████████ stated that the amount of gas released reached 3mm cubic feet on September 27, 2023, at 0300 hours and was reported to the DOT. Furthermore, ██████████ also informed SED that the third-party subcontractor, Vick Construction, did not have a valid USA ticket at the time of the incident.

On September 27, 2023, at approximately 1515 hours, SED arrived at the incident

site to conduct a field investigation. ██████████ of SoCalGas informed SED that the third-party subcontractor, Vick Construction, was grading the area with a grader for the construction of a parking structure at the time of the incident. There were no visible USA markings or delineation in the vicinity of the incident. SoCalGas' main involved had at least 46 to 48 inches soil coverage prior to the incident. According to ██████████, the contractor did not request a USA ticket for excavation (grading) activities in the area prior to the incident. Per ██████████, even though the damaged section is isolated, there is no service interruption due to the double feed system design in the area. SoCalGas also decided to abandon the isolated section permanently. SCG began to cap and abandon the section during SED's investigation. The contractor responsible for the damage was not on scene, but contact information was obtained.

On September 27, 2023, at 1658 hours, ██████████ of SoCalGas submitted the initial CPUC 420 Report to SED. With that report, ██████████ stated that the SoCalGas crew were on scene at 1717 hours on September 26, 2023, and were able to control the flow of gas the following day September 27, 2023, at approximately 0454 hours.

On September 28, 2023, at 1249 hours, SED received a data response from ██████████ of DigAlert. According to the data response, Vick Construction did not have a USA ticket before the date of the incident.

On September 28, 2023, at 1430 hours, SED conducted a phone interview with ██████████ of BCC Contracting, the general contractor. ██████████ provided an incident time of September 26, 2023, at 1642 hours. He also stated that SoCalGas crew arrived at the scene on the same day at 1717 hours. ██████████ confirmed that the incident was caused by a scraper striking the pipe and that the subcontractor, Vick Construction, did not possess a valid USA ticket at the time of the incident.

On September 29, 2023, at 1430 hours, SED conducted a phone interview with ██████████ of Vick Construction, the subcontractor. ██████████ corroborated the times provided by ██████████, as well as the cause of the incident. He also confirmed that Vick Construction did not possess a valid USA ticket at the time of the incident.

On October 5, 2023, at 0906 hours, ██████████ provided additional information in a data response. ██████████ provided the operator qualifications for the gas repair crew and records show they were qualified at the time of repair.

On October 26, 2023, at 1437 hours, ██████████ submitted the PHMSA F 7100.1 Form to SED. The report states that the total damage cost was \$55,206. The estimated volume of gas released unintentionally was 6,700.000 thousand standard cubic feet (mcf) and the estimated volume of intentional and controlled release/blowdown was 1.000 mcf. The recorded depth of cover for the pipe is 46-inches. The apparent cause has been identified as excavation damage.

**Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:**

None

**Conclusion:**

Based on the investigation, SED found that the incident was caused by a third-party contractor failing to obtain a valid USA ticket prior to excavation. Therefore, SED did not find any violations of GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR by SoCalGas.