

To: South Dakota One Call Notification Board

From: Rexwinkel Concrete
Jamie Rexwinkel

I am writing in response to the notice that I have received on complaint OC10-005 in regards to the natural gas line that we had hit with a nail pin stake on the 31st of August 2010. We were following up on replacing some Curb and gutter and sidewalk along a dot project on a street in mitchell s.d. The company that was doing the removals with an excavator and loader had already done his part and moved on to the next area. We were recalling a section of curb and set are elevation pins in the ground to set are string line. This pin was drove in the undisturbed soil 5 - 3/8 inches. We spent the next hour or better setting up the forms which the pins were drove in to hold boards in place an additional 3 to 4 inches deeper. We then removed the stakes that were holding up are string line and that is when we heard the leak coming from the hole that was created by the stake. I put the stake back in the hole and the gas stopped. I called Northwest public service and they told me what to do from there. I again pulled the nail pin out and measured the depth that the stake was in the ground and then put it back to stop the leak. I then watched the NPS crew dig in the opposite boulevard to crimp the gas line so that they could fix the damaged line. They were at a depth of 30 inches within 25 ft of the area that I had hit with a stake. We raised the curb & gutter up by 2 + inches from what it was and the line is now currently at 15 3/4 inches below new elevation. I was then contacted by Craig from NPS in which he shared with me his concern with me running an excavator and doing this project which I agreed. I also shared with him my concerns with a line that was obviously spaded under the Curb at a very shallow depth but immediately dug deeper when a trencher could be used. I then told him that I was going to talk to the engineers about getting ahead of us to mark all of the removals out so that the locator would know the areas that needed to be marked instead of having them mark everything along the entire project. I then talked to the on site rep for the company doing the excavation work and asked them if they had called in a locate which he told me that he had not. We discussed the rest of the project and that locates would be a good idea. I then had lunch with my work crew that was on the project and told them what had happened and that they would have to be alert to any paint on the ground when forming, which is what we usually do. I left he project that evening and went to another project and left the same crew there that had been on the job the entire time. I received a call from my foreman that there was a big stink being raised about there being no locates done on the project. I then called in and requested a locate in which was told that If I was not doing the excavation work I would not be covered. I then talked to my foreman 1 hour later and told him to get locates done on entire project for general landscaping. This is when the locates had finally been called in. We have a company policy of not doing any digging without a locate, even when owners have already done a locate before us. If we do street projects the site work companies always have the locates done when we get there so we have the marks in place for driving stakes. We have called in locates on plenty of projects and believe it to be a great tool and appreciate it. Our company history shows that we have always been on the cautious side and intend to keep it that way, I regret that this happened and it has opened the eyes of all of our employee=s to not assume that the contractor ahead of us did a locate or that all gas lines are at a safe depth so get locates .

Thank you.

Jamie Rexwinkel