

Attn One call board

"ticket# 123130182 I had cleaned out the road rite of way and 3 field ditches last April but the ditch in the middle was to wet to do more than just get water flowing. I came back on Nov 9th I believe and stated to clean out the middle ditch now that it was not as wet. I had talked to Mike Garry, who I had worked with previously on other jobs, on the phone and he told me that he would be down in a hour or so to measure over the gas pipe as I dug. I took my hoe and started digging around 20ft or so south of the flags that were still standing from the digging I did earlier in April and kept digging south going away from the flags. I seen Mike pull into field and drove my hoe up to where he was so he could measure above the marked pipe for me to dig. Mike walked over to where I had dug and asked me if I knew there was 2 pipes buried and that I had dug over one of them. I got that knot in the gut feeling and just hoped I had not done any damage. I showed Mike the dirt spoil I had removed and that it was not much dirt but still I had dug over the pipe. Mike measured where I had dug and it measured 17" above the pipe and told me that he had to report the shallow pipe. I am not trying to point the finger at anyone but myself but I honestly don't remember anyone from the previous April marking a second pipe in the field. I was the man on the hoe doing the digging and thought I knew enough about where the line was to start digging before Mike got there. The worse part of this whole thing is that I have had other farmers get mad at me and tell me they should have got someone else to do some digging for them because I would not dig until all the locates were found but they were in a hurry to get the job done. I can assure you a lesson was learned and I will never ever dig before a locate has been called in and a meeting with whoever wants one done before digging. This is the first and the last time I will ever put myself into a situation like this again. I also will put a 12" 15" piece of tile and cover with dirt to help protect the gas pipe if that is something you would like to see done. This ditch is not a main waterway that drains a big area it just drains a wet area in the field other then when a big rain would deliver a large amount of water to same area. Again weather there was 1, 2 Or more pipes I started digging before Mike got there even though I had dug in the same ditches in April. I was the man on the machine.

Bob Andrews

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