

Safe Digging



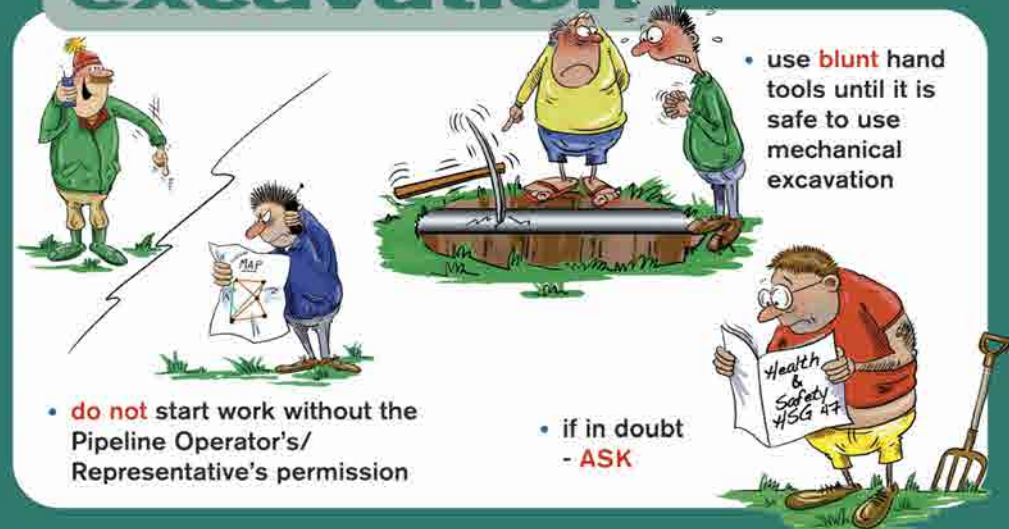
Holing our high pressure pipelines can kill and will cause massive pollution

preparation



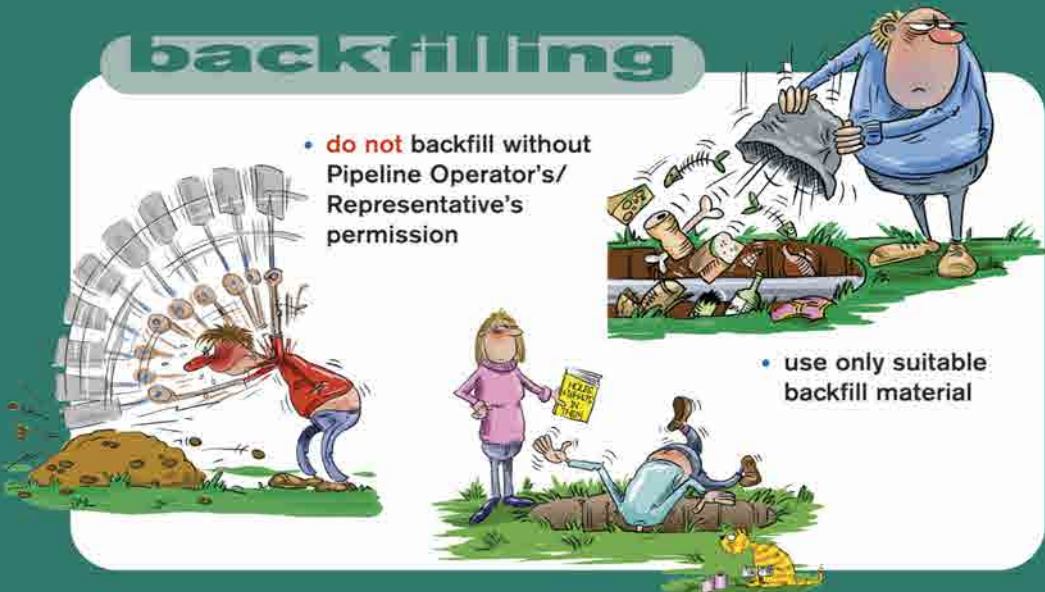
- is Task Risk Assessment complete?
- have you inspected the site for markers?
- are underground apparatus plans available?
- mark out apparatus beyond excavation
- remember not all apparatus is detectable
- use a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT)

excavation



- use **blunt** hand tools until it is safe to use mechanical excavation
- **do not** start work without the Pipeline Operator's/ Representative's permission
- if in doubt - **ASK**

backfilling



- **do not** backfill without Pipeline Operator's/ Representative's permission
- use only suitable backfill material

summary



- Pipeline Operators/Representatives are there to assist
 - proper preparation is the key to safe excavation
- risk assessment is a legal requirement
- **always** mark out
- **always** CAT scan
- **do not** cover up damage
- **do not** become an accident statistic

www.LSBUD.co.uk

for free, quick online search of proposed work location

www.linewatch.org.uk

for links to individual pipeline websites



High pressure fuel pipelines

what?

- Linewatch partners fuel pipelines carry highly flammable refined petroleum and gas products (petrol, diesel, kerosene, natural gas and Ethylene) at pressures up to 100bar (1500psi)
- Pipelines are made of welded steel and can withstand huge internal pressure, but are highly susceptible to damage from excavating machinery, construction plant or even hand tools. Nominal depth of cover is only 3 feet (900mm)
- Linewatch Partners insist that all work within 3m of their pipelines must receive prior approval and be supervised, on site, by a Pipeline Operator's/Representative's technician

why?

- **Avoid personal injury or death:** Damaging a pipeline could produce a jet of fuel 100ft high and spill 10 tonnes per minute. The lives of operatives and the public would immediately be put at risk
- **Avoid environmental damage:** Any pipeline incident will immediately cause pollution of soil, water and the atmosphere and would lead to a prosecution by the Environment Agency
- **Avoid financial penalties:** Linewatch Partners estimate that a pipeline incident could cost £15,000,000
- **Avoid prosecution:** The HSE's Pipeline Safety Regulations impose an absolute duty **not to damage any pipeline, or cause a pipeline to be damaged**
- **Avoid delays:** Linewatch Partners will stop all works near the pipeline if safety rules are not being followed

dos

If you are working near a Linewatch Partner's pipeline:

- ✓ DO consult the Pipeline Operator/Representative in advance
- ✓ DO tell the Pipeline Operator/Representative if it is not clearly marked
- ✓ DO arrange a site meeting in advance of the work
- ✓ DO fence off the pipeline across the site
- ✓ DO construct plant crossing points
- ✓ DO give the Pipeline Operator/Representative at least 3 working days notice to arrange supervision
- ✓ DO tell all contractors and staff about the pipeline in their work area
- ✓ DO work closely with the Pipeline Operator/Representative to ensure that your activities can be completed in total safety

don'ts

- ✗ DON'T assume that you know the location of the line, or locate it without a Pipeline Operator/Representative
- ✗ DON'T move pegs, posts or guard fences
- ✗ **DON'T carry out any work (even trial holes) within 3m without a Pipeline Operator's/ Representative's supervision**
- ✗ DON'T drive plant across the pipeline

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