



**CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND SAFETY BOARD
INVESTIGATION DIVISION**

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Date: March 16, 2026

Case No.: N2428370

Violations:

Irvine Fence Inc.

Government Code § 4216.2(b): Excavating without first notifying the regional notification center of intent to excavate.

Government Code § 4216.4(c)(1): Excavator failure to call 911 emergency services upon discovering or causing damage to subsurface installation resulting in the escape of flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid.

Executive Summary:

On October 2, 2024, Irvine Fence Inc. was using a shovel to install new fence posts without first contacting the regional notification center and damaged a ½" plastic natural gas facility while digging. Upon the escape of natural gas from the subsurface installation, Irvine Fence Inc. did not call 911 emergency services to report it. No one was injured and no equipment, other than the ½" plastic natural gas facility, was damaged.

Reporting Party Information:

Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

Date of Incident:

October 2, 2024

Location of the Incident:

26991 Pinjara Circle
Mission Viejo, California 92691

Operator:

Southern California Gas Company
Regional Notification Center Member Code SCG2XK
1919 South State College Boulevard

Anaheim, California 92806

Excavator:

Irvine Fence Inc.
1016 East Katella Avenue
Anaheim, California 92805

Facility Type Damaged:

½" plastic natural gas facility

Investigation:

Notification of the Incident

On October 9, 2024, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) submitted a notification of an incident to the California Underground Safety Board. The notification stated, “Contractor was using a post hole digger to build a fence without a USA.” (Exh. 1.)

SoCalGas’ notification reported that a post-hole digger was used when the damage occurred. (Exh. 1.) However, Irvine Fence Inc.’s Operations Manager, Jonathan Villalobos, stated that one of its employees was using a shovel when the line was damaged. (Exh. 2.)

The case was assigned to Investigator Angel Barton (Investigator).

Excavation and Damage

Government Code section 4216(g) defines “excavation” to be the use of tools or equipment to move or displace earth, rock, or other material in the ground.

Irvine Fence Inc. was digging with a shovel to set new fence posts at 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691, and damaged a natural gas line. (Exh. 2.) The incident occurred between 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (Exh. 3.)

Excavation and Identity of the Excavator

Government Code section 4216(h) defines an excavator to be “any person, firm, contractor or subcontractor, owner, operator, utility, association, corporation, partnership, business trust, public agency, or other entity that, with their own employees or equipment, performs any excavation.”



Photo 1: shows the completely severed 1/2" plastic natural gas facility, in the ground, provided by SoCalGas. (Exh. 1.)

Irvine Fence Inc. was licensed, as of November 4, 2024, by the Contractors State License Board, license number 1018372, with C13 – Fencing and C-61/D03 - Awnings classifications. (Exh. 4.)

Irvine Fence Inc. Did Not Contact the Regional Notification Center Before Excavating

Government Code section 4216.2(b) states that an excavator planning to excavate shall notify the appropriate regional notification center of the excavator’s intent to excavate at least two working days, and not more than 14 calendar days, before beginning that excavation.

Irvine Fence Inc. did not notify the regional notification center prior to excavation on October 2, 2024, at 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691. Irvine Fence Inc.’s Operations Manager Villalobos stated they did not contact the regional notification center because, “CAN NOT CONFIRM IF HOMEOWNERS OR OUR PROJECT LEAD CALLED TO SCHEDULE DIG ALERT.” (Exh. 2.)

On November 1, 2024, Investigator emailed DigAlert’s Safety Awareness Director, Amber Dahl, requesting ticket information for 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691, for September 1, 2024, through October 16, 2024. (Exh. 5.)

On November 4, 2025, Director Dahl, emailed its response and confirmed that a ticket did not exist for 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691 on October 2, 2024. (Exh. 6.)

Irvine Fence Inc. Did Not Call 911 Emergency Services Upon Natural Gas Release

Government Code section 4216.4(c)(1) states an excavator shall call 911 emergency services upon discovering or causing damage to a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline subsurface installation in which the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid.

On October 2, 2024, Irvine Fence Inc. damaged a ½" plastic natural gas facility while installing new fence posts that caused natural gas to leak but did not call 911 afterwards per Manager Villalobos. (Exh. 2.)

Findings:

1. Irvine Fence Inc. failed to contact the regional notification center before beginning excavation on October 2, 2024, at 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691, because they could not confirm if the homeowners or their project lead called to schedule DigAlert.
2. On October 2, 2024, Irvine Fence Inc. failed to call 911 emergency services to report the escaping natural gas from the subsurface installation after it damaged the facility while installing new fence posts.

Investigator	Supervisor
Angel Barton	Anona Bonner
Signature	Signature
/s/ Angel Barton	/s/ Anona Bonner

Exhibit List:

Exhibit No.	Description	Date	Received From
1.	Incident report submitted to the Underground Safety Board	Received on 10/9/2024	Damage Prevention Analyst, Jennifer Duprey, Southern California Gas Company
2.	Board's investigation questionnaire responses from Operations Manager, Jonathan Villalobos, Irvine Fence Inc.	Received on 11/13/2024	
3.	Email from Irvine Fence Inc. providing approximate incident time	Received on 11/20/2024	
4.	Contractor's license detail for License No. 1018372 obtained from the Contractors State License Board's website	Downloaded on 11/4/2024	California Contractors State License Board's website at https://www.cslb.ca.gov/onlineservices/checklicensell/checklicense.aspx
5.	Investigator's email to DigAlert requesting ticket information on the underlying job to this incident	Emailed on 11/1/2024	
6.	Email from DigAlert stating there was no valid ticket for the underlying job to this incident	Received on 11/4/2024	Amber Dahl Safety Awareness Director DigAlert

Exhibit 1

No-Ticket Damage Reporting Form

Submitted: October 9, 2024 6:48 PM

Reporter Information

Provide the names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of all individuals who are involved in reporting this damage or contributing to the answers to these questions

Full Name

Jennifer Duprey

Title

Damage Prevention Analyst

Phone Number

949-280-6576

E-mail address

JLDuprey@socalgas.com

Company

Provide the name, address, phone number, email address, and, if applicable, the Regional Notification Center (member code for your company).

Company Name

So Cal Gas

Address

555 W. 5th st., Los Angeles , 90013

Phone Number

877-238-0092

Email Address

SCGDamagePrevention@socalgas.com

Regional Notification Center member code

Other Contacts

Is the photographer same as the primary reporter named above?

Yes

Incident Information

What was the date and approximate time of the incident?

October 2, 2024 8:10 AM

What is the address where your facility was damaged on 10/2/2024?

Damage Street Address

26991 Pinjara Cir

Damage County

Orange

Damage City
Mission Viejo

Damage Cross Street 1
TRABUCO

Damage Cross Street 2

Other Damage location description

Does So Cal Gas own, operate or maintain the facility damaged on 10/2/2024?
Yes

What type of excavation did you observe on 10/2/2024 at that address?
Fencing

Describe the excavation activity you identified.
Contractor was using a post hole digger to build a fence without a USA

What excavation companies did you observe on 10/2/2024?

Company Name
IRVINE FENCE INC

Company Address
1016 E Katella , Anaheim , 92806

Phone Number

714-497-5444

Email Address

invinefence@invinefenceinc.com

Did this company damage the facility?

Yes

Provide the name, title, phone number, and email address for at least one contact for each excavation company working at or near incident address on date of incident. If you have more than one contact, please provide all of them. Email addresses are required for submission of this form.

Personnel Name

Albert Unknown

Title

Unknown

Phone Number

714-497-5444

Email Address

invinefence@invinefenceinc.com

Notification Details

Was So Cal Gas notified of the proposed excavation by the Regional Notification Center before 10/2/2024?

No

What date and time did you learn of the damage to the facility?

October 2, 2024 8:12 AM

How did So Cal Gas learn of the damage to the facility?

ALBERT reported the damage to So Cal Gas

Facility Damaged

What kind of facility was damaged on 10/2/2024?

Natural Gas

Natural Gas

What type of material was the damaged facility?

Plastic

Facility diameter (inches)?

0.5

Incident Details

What kinds of excavation equipment did you observe at the location of the damaged facility?

Other hand tools

Do you know what equipment damaged the facility?

Yes

What equipment damaged the facility?

Other hand tools

What information are you relying on regarding damage to the facility?

Photographs, Interview with excavator

Did So Cal Gas contact the Regional Notification Center before repairing the damaged facility?

No

Provide any other relevant information about the damage on 10/2/2024.

Contractor was using a post hole digger to build a fence without a USA

Damages

Were there any injuries to any personnel or bystanders due to the damage to your facility on 10/2/2024?

No

Was any property damaged other than the damaged facility?

No

Was there a fire caused by this damage on 10/2/2024?

No

Was there an evacuation of any nearby homes or businesses caused by this damage on 10/2/2024?

Yes

Provide an estimate of the number of your customers whose service was interrupted by this damage on 10/2/2024.

2

Conclusions

What date and time were repairs completed to the damaged facility?

October 2, 2024 12:21 PM

Please explain why you think the facility was damaged on 10/2/2024?

I think the contractor did not know where the utilities were because they did not have a USA ticket and they hit our service.

Is there any other information which you feel is important to share about this incident?

Not counting your answers to these questions, did So Cal Gas create an investigatory or incident report pertaining to the damage on 10/2/2024?

Yes

Please attach investigatory or incident report here.

USB Damage Report Form Template _002_ Pinjara Cir.docx, 0.03MB

Have your answers to these questions and or the documents you are sending today been reviewed, changed or amended by anyone?

No

Files

Please attach all Facility Repair Orders.

Please attach all Photos.



Date and time photographed

October 2, 2024 9:48 AM

Photographer Name

Jennifer Duprey



Date and time photographed

October 2, 2024 9:46 AM

Photographer Name

Jennifer Duprey



Date and time photographed
October 2, 2024 10:29 AM

Photographer Name
Jennifer Duprey

Additional Records

Reference Number

N2428370

Incident Time: (24hr) 8:10am

Incident Date: 10-02-2024

Incident Location:

City/County: Orange County

Address/Location: 26991 Pinjara Cir Mission Viejo 92691

Incident Cause: Contractor hit our service line with a post hole digger for a fence.

Gas Equipment Affected service line

Material: plastic Pipe size: 1/2"

Dig In Information:

USA notification required: **Yes / No**

USA notified: **Yes / No** USA #

Facilities properly marked: **Yes / No**

Name of Excavator: IRVINE FENCE INC

Excavator Contact Person: ALbert

Phone: 714-497-5444

On Scene:	Date	Time
Company Personnel on Scene	<u>10-02-2024</u>	<u>8:39am</u>
Gas Flow Stopped	<u>10-02-2024</u>	<u>9:45am</u>

Customer Outages (Quantity) 2

Summary of incident:

Contractor hit our service line with a post hole digger for a fence, with no USA

Exhibit 2

No-Ticket Damage Reporting Form

Submitted Time: November 13, 2024 12:59 PM

Provide your name, title, phone number, and email address

Name

JONATHAN

Title

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Phone Number

949-656-6569

Email Address

JONATHANV@IRVINEFENCEINC.COM

Please provide the identifying information for IRVINE FENCE INC in general.

California Contractor's State License Board (CSLB) license

1018372

Physical Address

1016 E KATELLA AVE ANAHEIM CA 92805

Mailing Address

PO BOX 11301 SANTA ANA CA 92705

Phone Number

714-497-5444

Email Address

IRVINEFENCE@IRVINEFENCEINC.COM

Did IRVINE FENCE INC damage the NaturalGas facility while excavating at 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo on the 10/2/2024? (Select One)

Yes

Were there any other companies at or near 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo on 10/2/2024? (Select One)

No

Did someone in IRVINE FENCE INC, or anyone else, contact the Regional Notification Center on 10/2/2024?

No

Did So Cal Gas respond after the Regional Notification Center created the 811 ticket?

Is IRVINE FENCE INC aware that it needed to contact the Regional Notification Center prior to excavating?

Yes

Did the Regional Notification Center create an 811-ticket for 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo that IRVINE FENCE INC worked?

No

If no one at IRVINE FENCE INC, or anyone else, contacted the Regional Notification Center before excavating, why not?

Other

Explain why IRVINE FENCE INC did not obtain an 811 ticket?

CAN NOT CONFIRM IF HOMEOWNERS OR OUR PROJECT LEAD CALLED TO SCHEDULE DIG ALERT

Has IRVINE FENCE INC ever obtained an 811 ticket, either by calling 811 or using the Regional Notification Center's website?

Yes

The damage notification indicated that a facility was damaged at 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo on 10/2/2024. Is that correct?

Yes

Was IRVINE FENCE INC the prime contractor on the project at 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo on 10/2/2024?

Yes

What was mentioned or what direction did the prime contractor provide to you?

Provide the names, phone numbers, and if applicable, their email address for all your personnel who were at 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo when the facility was damaged.

Name

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Title

PROJECT SPECAILIST

Phone Number

Email Address

Add an additional individual?

Yes

Name

OSVALDO GONZALEZ

Title

FOREMAN

Phone Number

951-415-0301

Email Address

Add an additional individual?

No

Which one of the individuals you identified was the foreman on the project when the facility was damaged?

OSVALDO GONZALEZ

Facility Damage

Was a facility damaged on 10/2/2024?

Yes

Describe the damaged facility.

POLY GAS LINE

Identify the type of material damaged.

PLASTIC

Explain how the facility was damaged?

DIGGING TO SET NEW FENCE POSTS

What equipment did IRVINE FENCE INC use on 10/2/2024? (Select All That Are Applicable)

Shovel

What type of equipment damaged the facility?

Shovel

Who was operating the equipment that damaged the facility on 10/2/2024?

OSVALDO GONZALEZ

Does IRVINE FENCE INC own that equipment?

Yes

Emergency Response

How did IRVINE FENCE INC learn that the So Cal Gas facility was damaged on 10/2/2024?

WE DAMAGED THE GAS LINE WHILE DIGGING

Did anyone with IRVINE FENCE INC call 911 on 10/2/2024 after the damage had occurred?

No

Was there an emergency response to the incident from the fire department, a law enforcement department, or an ambulance on 10/2/2024?

No

Were there any injuries to any personnel or bystanders on 10/2/2024?

No

Were there any fatalities on 10/2/2024 or afterwards, due to the damage at 26991 Pinjara Cir , Mission Viejo?

No

Was there property damage on 10/2/2024, excluding the facility damage?

No

Was there a fire on 10/2/2024 as a result of the damage to the facility?

No

Was there an evacuation of any homes or businesses on 10/2/2024 as a result of the damage to the facility?

No

Are you aware of anyone else that called 911?

No

Did anyone at IRVINE FENCE INC contact the Regional Notification Center after the damage on 10/2/2024?

No

Did anyone at IRVINE FENCE INC contact So Cal Gas after the damage?

Yes

Who at IRVINE FENCE INC contacted the So Cal Gas?

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

What is the name of the person at the So Cal Gas contacted by the individual you identified above?

N/A

What steps, if any, have IRVINE FENCE INC taken to prevent a similar damage in the future?
**CONFRIM WITH HOMEOWNERS AND PROJECT LEADS TO MAKE SURE AN 811 TICKET IS ISSUED
BEFORE SCHEDULED INSTALLATIONS**

Is there any other information you want to share about this damage?

Exhibit 3

Barton, Angel@EnergySafety

From: Irvine Fence Inc <irvinefence@irvinefenceinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Barton, Angel@EnergySafety
Subject: Re: Follow up question - Underground Safety Board – No-811 Investigation Case N2428370

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Not 100% sure, but it appears it was around 8:30-9:30am.

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 3:31 PM Barton, Angel@EnergySafety <Angel.Barton@energysafety.ca.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Irvine Fence Inc.,

Thank you for completing the survey. One additional follow up question:

1. Please clarify, at approximately what time did Irvine Fence Inc., damage the gas facility at 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, on October 02, 2024?

Cordially,

Angel Barton
Investigator
Underground Infrastructure Directorate
Phone: (916) 216-0251
www.energysafety.ca.gov



OFFICE OF ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE
SAFETY

Stay connected and informed by signing up for the [Underground Safety Board's subscriber list](#).

--

Customer Service

Irvine Fence, Inc.

Direct: (714) 497-5444

Email: irvinefence@irvinefenceinc.com

<http://www.irvinefenceinc.com/>



Exhibit 4



Contractor's License Detail for License # 1018372

DISCLAIMER: A license status check provides information taken from the CSLB license database. Before relying on this information, you should be aware of the following limitations.

- ▶ CSLB complaint disclosure is restricted by law (B&P 7124.6) If this entity is subject to public complaint disclosure click on link that will appear below for more information. Click [here](#) for a definition of disclosable actions.
- ▶ Only construction related civil judgments reported to CSLB are disclosed (B&P 7071.17).
- ▶ Arbitrations are not listed unless the contractor fails to comply with the terms.
- ▶ Due to workload, there may be relevant information that has not yet been entered into the board's license database.

Data current as of 11/4/2024 3:28:53 PM

Business Information

IRVINE FENCE INC
P O BOX 11301
SANTA ANA, CA 92711
Business Phone Number:(714) 497-5444

Entity Corporation
Issue Date 09/16/2016
Expire Date 09/30/2026

License Status

This license is current and active.

All information below should be reviewed.

Classifications

- ▶ C13 - FENCING
- ▶ C-61 / D03 - AWNINGS

Bonding Information

Contractor's Bond

This license filed a Contractor's Bond with [WESTERN SURETY COMPANY](#).

Bond Number: 64823145

Bond Amount: \$25,000

Effective Date: 01/01/2023

[Contractor's Bond History](#)

Bond of Qualifying Individual

The qualifying individual EDWARD VERDIN certified that he/she owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock/membership interest of this company; therefore, the Bond of Qualifying Individual is not required.

Effective Date: 10/20/2016

[BQI's Bond History](#)

Workers' Compensation

This license has workers compensation insurance with the [INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE WEST](#)

Policy Number:WSD507823200

Effective Date: 06/05/2024

Expire Date: 06/05/2025

[Workers' Compensation History](#)

Workers' compensation classification code(s):

8227 - Construction/Erection Permanent Yards

8810 - Clerical Office Employees

8742 - Salespersons-Outside

For a description of the workers' compensation classification code(s) listed for this licensee, contact the licensee's insurance carrier. Contact information for the licensee's insurer is available by clicking the insurer link above. Classification codes are also available on the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau's classification search page.

The board does not verify or investigate the accuracy of classification codes displayed.

[Back to Top](#)

[Conditions of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Accessibility Certification](#)

Copyright © 2024 State of California

Exhibit 5

811 ticket request

From Barton, Angel@EnergySafety <Angel.Barton@energysafety.ca.gov>

Date Fri 11/1/2024 3:50 PM

To Amber Dahl <amber@digalert.org>

Cc Alcantar, Daysi@EnergySafety <Daysi.Alcantar@energysafety.ca.gov>

Good afternoon Amber,

Please provide a copy of all tickets, revisions, and electronic positive responses at about 26991 Pinjara Circle, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691 for September 01, 2024 to October 16, 2024.

If there is not a ticket at this address for this date, please confirm that finding.

Cordially,

Angel Barton

Investigator

Underground Infrastructure Directorate

Phone: (916) 216-0251

www.energysafety.ca.gov



OFFICE OF ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE
SAFETY

Stay connected and informed by signing up for the [Underground Safety Board's subscriber list](#).

Exhibit 6



Underground Service Alert

of Southern California™

November 4, 2024

Angel Barton
Underground Safety Board

File Number: Unknown

Dear Angel,

After searching our records from 9/1/24 through 10/16/24, we were unable to find any DigAlert tickets for the location at or near 26991 Pinjara Circle in Mission Viejo. I hope this information will be helpful.

If we can be of further assistance, please call us at 951-808-8100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber Dahl".

Amber Dahl
Safety Awareness Director

From: [Amber Dahl](#)
To: [Barton, Angel@EnergySafety](mailto:Barton,Angel@EnergySafety)
Cc: [Alcantar, Daysi@EnergySafety](mailto:Alcantar,Daysi@EnergySafety)
Subject: Re: 26991 Pinjara Cir
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:47:06 PM
Attachments: [26991 Pinjara Circle.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you,



Amber Dahl, Safety Director
Underground Service Alert of Southern California
PO BOX 77070 Corona, CA 92877
P: 951-808-8115 F: 951-808-8101
E: amber@digalert.org W: www.digalert.org



This e-mail message may contain confidential or legally privileged information and is intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying or the taking of any action in reliance on the information herein is prohibited. E-mails are not secure and cannot be guaranteed to be error free as they can be intercepted, amended, or contain viruses. Anyone who communicates with us by e-mail is deemed to have accepted these risks. Underground Service Alert of Southern California is not responsible for errors or omissions in this message and denies any responsibility for any damage arising from the use of e-mail. Any opinion and other statement contained in this message and any attachment are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.