

CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND SAFETY BOARD INVESTIGATION DIVISION

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Date: March 11, 2025 **Case No.:** N2427573

Violations:

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing

Government Code § 4216.2(b): Excavating without first notifying the Regional

Notification Center of intent to excavate.

Government Code § 4216. 4(c)(1): 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 September 24, 2024, at 12:29 p.m., Selvin Ramirez Plumbing excavated without first contacting the Regional Notification Center and damaged a natural gas facility while digging to install a sewer. Selvin Ramirez Plumbing did not call 911 emergency services to report the damage. No one was injured and no equipment, other than the natural gas facility, was damaged.

Reporting Party Information:

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

Date of Incident:

September 24, 2024

Location of the Incident:

1226 West 70th Street Los Angeles, California 90044

Operator:

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

Excavator:

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing 941 East Vernon Avenue Los Angeles, 90011

Facility Type Damaged:

1/2" plastic natural gas facility

Investigation:

Notification of the Incident

On October 11, 2024, at 1:49 p.m. Southern California Gas Company submitted a notification of an incident to the California Underground Safety Board. The notification stated, "Selvin Ramirez plumbing was excavating to install new sewer line for ADU when 1/2" plastic natural gas service was struck with chipping gun resulting in gas escape." (Exh. 1.)

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

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."

On September 24, 2024, Jose Ramirez, an apprentice with Selvin Ramirez Plumbing was digging with a shovel and damaged a plastic gas line at 1226 West 70th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044. (Exh. 2.)

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing, as of November 20, 2024, was not licensed by the California Contractors State License Board. Additionally, Selvin Ramirez Plumbing responded "N/A" when asked for its California Contractors State License Board Number. (Exh. 2.)

<u>Selvin Ramirez Plumbing Did Not Contact the Regional Notification Center Before</u> <u>Digging</u>

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.

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing did not notify the Regional Notification Center before digging at 1226 West 70th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044. The reason that Owner Selvin Ramirez of

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing gave for not contacting the Regional Notification Center was, "I didn't know what number to call and I'm still learning." (Exh. 2.)

On November 6, 2024, Investigator emailed Amber Dahl, Safety Awareness Director at DigAlert, requesting ticket information for 1226 West 70th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044, between August 24, 2024, and October 10, 2024. (Exh. 3.)

Safety Awareness Director, Amber Dahl, responded on November 07, 2024, confirmed that a ticket did not exist for 1226 West 70th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044 on September 24, 2024, before the incident occurred. (Exh. 4.)

Selvin Ramirez Plumbing Did Not Call 911 Emergency Services Upon 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 September 24, 2024, at approximately 12:29 p.m., Selvin Ramirez Plumbing damaged a ½" plastic natural gas facility when excavating by digging to install a sewer. The damage caused gas to leak. Owner Selvin Ramirez of Selvin Ramirez Plumbing answered "no" when asked if anyone with Selvin Ramirez Plumbing called 911 on September 24, 2024, after the damage. (Exh. 2.)

Findings:

- 1. On September 24, 2024, at 1226 West 70th Street, Los Angeles, California 90044, Selvin Ramirez Plumbing excavated without first notifying the Regional Notification Center.
- 2. On September 24, 2024, Selvin Ramirez Plumbing failed to call 911 emergency services to report the escaping gas from the subsurface installation after they damaged it while excavating.

Investigator	Supervisor
Angel Barton	Daysi Alcantar
Signature	Signature
/s/ Angel Barton	/s/ Daysi Alcantar
_	

Exhibit List:

Exhibit No.	Description	Date	Received From
1.	Incident Report submitted to the Underground Safety Board	Received on 10/11/2024, at 1:49 p.m.	Southern California Gas Company
2.	Board's Investigation Questionnaire submitted to Owner Selvin Ramirez, Selvin Ramirez Plumbing	Received on 11/18/2024	
3.	Investigator's email to DigAlert requesting ticket information on the underlying job to this incident	Emailed on 11/06/2024	
4.	Email from DigAlert stating there was no valid ticket for the underlying job to this incident	Received on 11/07/2024	Amber Dahl Safety Awareness Director DigAlert

Exhibit 1

No-Ticket Damage Reporting Form

Submitted: October 11, 2024 1:49 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 Sean O'Connor
Title Damage Prevention Analyst
Phone Number 310-683-9471
E-mail address soconnor@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 SoCalGas

Address

555 W 5th St., Los Angeles, 90013

Phone Number

310-683-9471

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? September 24, 2024 12:29 PM

What is the address where your facility was damaged on 9/24/2024?

Damage Street Address

1226 W 70th St

Damage County

Los Angeles

Damage City Los Angeles
Damage Cross Street 1 Budlong Ave
Damage Cross Street 2 Raymond Ave
Other Damage location description
Does SoCalGas own, operate or maintain the facility damaged on 9/24/2024? Yes
What type of excavation did you observe on 9/24/2024 at that address? Sewer
Describe the excavation activity you identified. 3rd party contractor excavating without a USA ticket for sewer install for ADU build struck 1/2" plastic Natural gas service resulting in the escape of gas.
What excavation companies did you observe on 9/24/2024?

Company Address

Company Name

SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING

941 E. VERNON AVE, Los Angeles , 90011

323-423-8740
Email Address deebuilz@yahoo.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 Selvin Ramirez
Title Owner
Phone Number 323-423-8740
Email Address deebuilz@yahoo.com

Phone Number

Notification Details

Was SoCalGas notified of the proposed excavation by the Regional Notification Center before 9/24/2024?

No

What date and time did you learn of the damage to the facility? September 24, 2024 12:29 PM

How did SoCalGas learn of the damage to the facility? Intercompany Email Notification

Facility Damaged

What kind of facility was damaged on 9/24/2024? 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?
Powered hand-held other
Do you know what equipment damaged the facility? Yes

What equipment damaged the facility?

Powered hand-held other

What information are you relying on regarding damage to the facility? Photographs, Interview with excavator

Did SoCalGas contact the Regional Notification Center before repairing the damaged facility?

No

Provide any other relevant information about the damage on 9/24/2024. Selvin Ramirez plumbing was excavating to install new sewer line for ADU when 1/2" plastic natural gas service was struck with chipping gun resulting in gas escape.

Damages

Were there any injuries to any personnel or bystanders due to the damage to your facility on 9/24/2024?

No

Was any property damaged other than the damaged facility? No

Was there a fire caused by this damage on 9/24/2024? No

Was there an evacuation of any nearby homes or businesses caused by this damage on 9/24/2024?

No

Provide an estimate of the number of your customers whose service was interrupted by this damage on 9/24/2024.

0

Conclusions

What date	and	time	were	repairs	complete	ed to	the	dama	ged	facility	/?
September	24,	2024	2:52	PM							

Please explain why you think the facility was damaged on 9/24/2024? 1/2" plastic gas service was damaged resulting in gas escape.

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

Not counting your answers to these questions, did SoCalGas create an investigatory or incident report pertaining to the damage on 9/24/2024? Yes

Please attach investigatory or incident report here. USB SelvinRamirezPlumbing 9242024.docx, 0.02MB

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

Photographer Name

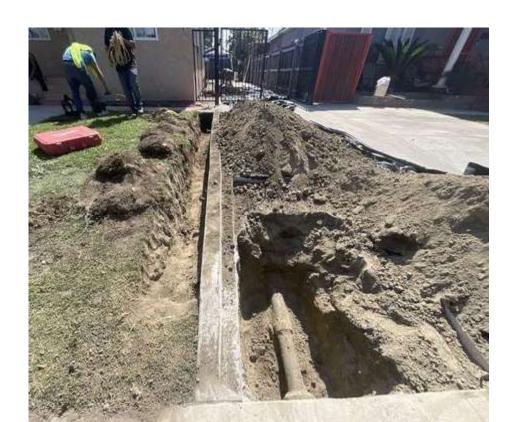
Sean O'Connor



Date and time photographed

Photographer Name

Sean O'Connor



Date and time photographed

Photographer Name Sean O'Connor ______



Date and time photographed

Photographer Name Sean O'Connor

Additional Records

Business cards, photo of company vehicles onsite, etc.	
Screenshot_1-10-2024_946jpeg, 0.12MB	

Reference Number

N2427573

Incident Time: (24hr) 12:29						
Incident Date: _9/24/2024						
Incident Location:						
City/County: Los Angeles/Los A	Angeles					
Address/Location: 1226 W 70th St	<u>. </u>					
Incident Cause: <u>Excavation Damage</u>						
Gas Equipment Affected: Service						
Material: _Plastic Pi	pe size: <u>½ "</u>					
Dig In Information:	Dig In Information:					
USA notification required: Yes / N	USA notification required: Yes / No					
USA notified: Yes / No	USA #					
Facilities properly marked: Yes / No						
Name of Excavator: Selvin Rar	nirez Plumbing					
Excavator Contact Person: Selvi	n Ramirez					
Phone: 3234238740						
On Scene:	Date	Time				
Company Personnel on Scene	9/24/2024	13:20				
Gas Flow Stopped	9/24/2024	14:00				
Customer Outages (Quantity) 0						

Summary of incident: 3^{rd} party contractor trenching to install sewer lateral for ADU build struck and damaged $\frac{1}{2}$ " plastic service with chipping gun resulting in gas escape.

This document is not a certified record of Underground Service Alert

MBRCOD 00000 USAS 09/24/24 15:28 A242680858-01A EMER DMGE POLY

Ticket: A242680858 Rev: 01A Created: 09/24/24 15:28 User: LNR Chan: 100 Work Start: 09/24/24 15:28 Legal Start: 09/26/24 17:01 Expires: 10/22/24 23:59

Response Required: N Priority: EMER

Excavator Information

Company: SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING

Co Addr: UNK

City: State: CA Zip:

Created By: H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 213-509-0868 SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Office Email: DEEBUILZ@YAHOO.COM

Site Contact: SELVIN RAMIREZ

Site Phone: 323-423-8740 SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Site Email: DEEBUILZ@YAHOO.COM

Excavation Area

State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: LOS ANGELES

Zip: 90044

Location: **WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED**

Address/Street: 1226 W 70TH ST : X/ST 1: S BUDLONG AVE

: X/ST 2 :

: **WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED**

Delineated Method: NONE

Work Type: INSTALL SEWER LINE FOR ADU

Work For: H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE

Hash Tags: Comments:

DAMAGEA DAMAGED LINE FOR GAS - DAMAGED GAS LINE AT ADDRESS, LINE WAS REPAIRED BY GAS COMPANY ALREADY PER H/O

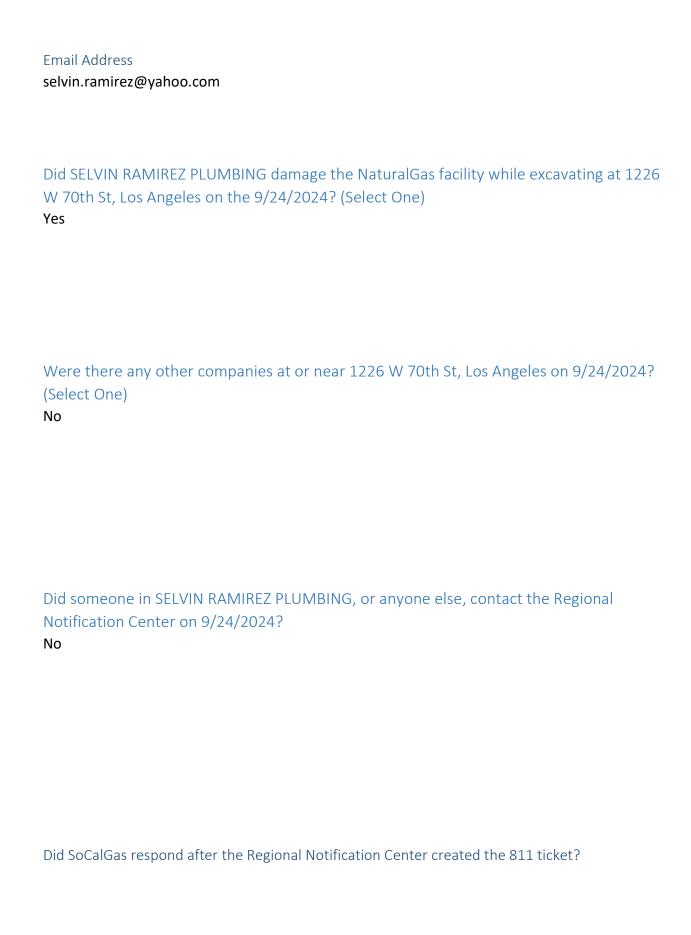
LAURENT, DWAYNE--[LNR 09/24/2024 03:28:00 PM]

Exhibit 2

No-Ticket Damage Reporting Form

Submitted Time: November 18, 2024 8:49 PM

Provide your name, title, phone number, and email address Name Selvin
Title Plumber
Phone Number 323-423-8740
Email Address selvin.ramirez@yahoo.com
Please provide the identifying information for SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING in general. California Contractor's State License Board (CSLB) license N/A
Physical Address 941 e vernon ave
Mailing Address 941 e vernon ave
Phone Number 323-423-8740



Is SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING aware that it needed to contact the Regional Notification Center prior to excavating? No
Did the Regional Notification Center create an 811-ticket for 1226 W 70th St, Los Angeles that SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING worked? No
If no one at SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING, or anyone else, contacted the Regional Notification Center before excavating, why not? Other
Explain why SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING did not obtain an 811 ticket? I didn't know what number to call and I'm still learning.
Has SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING ever obtained an 811 ticket, either by calling 811 or using the Regional Notification Center's website? No
The damage notification indicated that a facility was damaged at 1226 W 70th St, Los Angeles on 9/24/2024. Is that correct?

Yes

Was SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING the prime contractor on the project at 1226 W 70th St, Los Angeles on 9/24/2024? 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 1226 W 70th St, Los Angeles when the facility was damaged. Name Selvin Ramirez
Title Plumber
Phone Number 323-423-8740
Email Address selvin.ramirez@yahoo.com
Add an additional individual? Yes
Name Jose Ramirez

Title Apprentice
Phone Number 323-287-4107
Email Address jdramirez7@icloud.com
Add an additional individual? No
Which one of the individuals you identified was the foreman on the project when the facility was damaged? Selvin Ramirez
Facility Damage Was a facility damaged on 9/24/2024? Yes
Describe the damaged facility. Pinched the gas line.
Identify the type of material damaged. Plastic gas line
Explain how the facility was damaged? Pinched with shovel.

What equipment did SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING use on 9/24/2024? (Select All That Are Applicable) Shovel
What type of equipment damaged the facility? Shovel
Who was operating the equipment that damaged the facility on 9/24/2024? Jose Ramirez
Does SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING own that equipment? Yes
Emergency Response How did SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING learn that the SoCalGas facility was damaged on 9/24/2024? The smell of gas.
Did anyone with SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING call 911 on 9/24/2024 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 9/24/2024? No
Were there any injuries to any personnel or bystanders on 9/24/2024?

Were there any fatalities on 9/24/2024 or afterwards, due to the damage at 1226 W 70th St, Los Angeles? No
Was there property damage on 9/24/2024, excluding the facility damage? No
Was there a fire on 9/24/2024 as a result of the damage to the facility?
Was there an evacuation of any homes or businesses on 9/24/2024 as a result of the damage to the facility? No
Are you aware of anyone else that called 911? No
Did anyone at SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING contact the Regional Notification Center after the damage on 9/24/2024? No
Did anyone at SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING contact SoCalGas after the damage? No

What steps, if any, have SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING taken to prevent a similar damage in the future?

Contact 811 before excavating.

Is there any other information you want to share about this damage? $\ensuremath{\text{No}}$

Exhibit 3



811 ticket request N2427573

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

Date Wed 11/6/2024 2:29 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 1226 West 70th Street., Los Angeles CA, from cross-streets Budlong Avenue to Raymond Avenue, for August 24, 2024 to October 10, 2024.

If there is not a ticket at this location for any of these dates, please confirm that finding.

Cordially,

Angel Barton

Investigator

Underground Infrastructure Directorate

Phone: (916) 216-0251

www.energysafety.ca.gov



Stay connected and informed by signing up for the <u>Underground Safety Board's subscriber list</u>.

Exhibit 4

From: Amber Dahl

To: <u>Barton, Angel@EnergySafety</u>
Cc: <u>Alcantar, Daysi@EnergySafety</u>

Subject: File N2427573

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:16:12 PM

Attachments: N2427573.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





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Underground Service Alert

of Southern California™

November 7, 2024

Angel Barton Underground Safety Board

File Number: N2427573

Dear Angel,

After searching our records from 8/24/24 through 10/10/24, we found the following DigAlert ticket(s) A242680858 for the location at or near 1226 W 70th St x/sts Budlong Ave to Raymond Ave in Los Angeles. I hope this information will be helpful.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Dahl

anber Dahl

Safety Awareness Director

MBRCOD 00001B USAS 11/06/24 14:33:02 A242680858-00A NEW RUSH POLY LREQ

Ticket: A242680858 Rev: 00A Created: 09/24/24 15:27 User: LNR Chan: 100

Work Start: 09/24/24 15:20 Legal Start: 09/26/24 17:01 Expires: 10/22/24 23:59

Response required: Y Priority: 0

Excavator Information

Company: SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING Type: CONT

Co Addr: UNK

City : State: CA Zip:

Created By: H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 213-509-0868 SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Office Email: DEEBUILZ@YAHOO.COM

Site Contact: SELVIN RAMIREZ

Site Phone: 323-423-8740 Site SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Site Email: deebuilz@yahoo.com

Excavation Area

State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: LOS ANGELES

Zip: 90044

Address: 1226 Street: W 70TH ST

Cross 1 : S BUDLONG AVE

Cross 2:

Location: **WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED**

Searchable Tags:

Delineated Method: NONE

Work Type: INSTALL SEWER LINE FOR ADU

Work For : H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE

Permit: NOT AVAILABLE Job/Work order:

Project ID: Project Name:

1 Year: N Boring: N Street/Sidewalk: N Vacuum: N Explosives: N Pavement Only: N

Lat/Long

Center Generated (NAD83): 33.976335/-118.297148 33.976333/-118.296526 : 33.975601/-118.297150 33.975599/-118.296528

Excavator Provided:

Map link:

https://newtin.digalert.org/newtinweb/map_tkt.nap?TRG=CD9v8q9xCo2wtz0-j

Members:

ATTDSOUTH CHP01 CITYLASTLI LAWP3 SCG3Z2 UCHTRW C4

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Ticket Responses for: A242680858-00A

Member Name Rev Responded By Response

CITYLASTLI CITY OF LOS ANGELES 00A 09/26/24 05:01:30 PM Late Notice (999) Member did not respond by the required time

about:blank 2/4

MBRCOD 00001B USAS 11/06/24 14:33:04 A242680858-01A DMGE EMER POLY LREQ
Ticket: A242680858 Rev: 01A Created: 09/24/24 15:28 User: LNR Chan: 100

Work Start: 09/24/24 15:28 Legal Start: 09/26/24 17:01 Expires: 10/22/24 23:59

Response required: N Priority: 9

Excavator Information

Company: SELVIN RAMIREZ PLUMBING Type: CONT

Co Addr: UNK

City : State: CA Zip:

Created By: H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 213-509-0868 SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Office Email: DEEBUILZ@YAHOO.COM

Site Contact: SELVIN RAMIREZ

Site Phone: 323-423-8740 Site SMS/Cell: 213-509-0868

Site Email: deebuilz@yahoo.com

Excavation Area

State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: LOS ANGELES

Zip: 90044

Address: 1226 Street: W 70TH ST

Cross 1 : S BUDLONG AVE

Cross 2:

Location: **WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED**

Searchable Tags:

Job size: sq-feet: 44700 sq-miles: 0.001603

Delineated Method: NONE

Work Type: INSTALL SEWER LINE FOR ADU

Work For : H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE

Permit: NOT AVAILABLE Job/Work order:

Project ID: Project Name:

1 Year: N Boring: N Street/Sidewalk: N Vacuum: N Explosives: N Pavement Only: N

Lat/Long

Center Generated (NAD83): 33.976335/-118.297148 33.976333/-118.296526 : 33.975601/-118.297150 33.975599/-118.296527

Excavator Provided:

Map link:

https://newtin.digalert.org/newtinweb/map tkt.nap?TRG=DD9r9pBr1zx0pDk-2

Comments:

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^{**}DAMAGE**A DAMAGED LINE FOR GAS - DAMAGED GAS LINE AT ADDRESS, LINE WAS

REPAIRED BY GAS COMPANY ALREADY PER H/O LAURENT, DWAYNE--[LNR 09/24/2024 03:28:00 PM]

Members:

ATTDSOUTH CHP01 CITYLASTLI LAWP3 SCG3Z2 UCHTRW_C4

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Ticket Responses for: A242680858-01A

Member	Name	Rev	Responded	By	Response	Comment
Melliber	Ivallic	KEV	Responded	ьу	Response	Comment
ATTDSOUTH	HAT&T - DISTRIBUTION	OIA DW	24/24 03:51:27	UQ Responder	(004) NO MARKINGS REQUESTED	
CHP01	CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK	01A <mark>0</mark> 9/	25/24 08:24:50	emontanez	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT	
LAWP3	LADWP - WTR & PWR	01A <mark>0</mark> 9/	26/24 07:35:36	TMS:RPEREZ	(010) LOCATE AREA MARKED	Marked no conflict wtr/pwr
LAWP3	LADWP - WTR & PWR	01A ⁰⁹ /	24/24 03:33:58	TMS:RPEREZ	(004) NO MARKINGS REQUESTED	Requesting gas co response only
SCG3Z2	SOCALGAS DISTRIBUTION CRENSHAW	01A <mark>0</mark> 9/	25/24 09:14:55	PRSDG01 DFONG	(010) LOCATE AREA MARKED	
UCHTRW_C4	1 SPECTRUM - BELLFLOWER	01A ⁰⁹ /	24/24 03:51:27	UQ Responder	(004) NO MARKINGS REQUESTED	

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