

Case No: N2424954

Location of Violation: 11369 Brill Drive, Studio City, Ca 91604

Date of Violation: July 26 2024

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to address the circumstance of a ruptured gas pipe which occurred on my project at 11369 Brill Drive.

I would like to Contest in Writing and Request Informal Hearing.

I have read through the findings of Anona Bonner. When first reached out by the Underground Safety Board, I immediately cooperated with the investor (who was someone different than Anona Bonner from the findings)

I am not here to contest the fact of violation to call 811 Digalert prior to trenching.

The findings call for:

Mandatory completion of the Boards Education course

Financial Penalty

Corrective Actions

Violations: Failing to call 811 prior to excavating. Failing to call 911 after causing damage to a gas facility.

I am coming to the hearing to show that I take this situation very seriously and care about the work that I do. I am a new contractor running a very small company. This was my first accident of any kind and was quite alarming to me. I immediately called the gas company as I knew I had hit a gas line and needed it repaired as soon as possible. I stayed on the phone with the gas company for quite some time giving all the details of what happened and the current situation of the house and neighborhood. I was asked on the phone if I had called 911 and I let her know that I had not and called the gas company immediately. There were no injuries or damage in need of 911 services at all. She didn't inform me of calling 911 or the requirement that I had to. Unfortunately I did not know it was a legal requirement for me to call 911 for a damaged gas pipe.

We did hit a ½ inch gas line in the front of the house while trenching to lay some pipe. I was uneducated in the fact that we needed to call 811 for a simple trench which did not exceed 24". My understanding of calling 811 was for excavations. Deep digging where possible utilities are supposed to be located. Unfortunately the gas line in this instance was only 16" deep which per the gas company is not correct or per their requirements.

Since this incident has taken place I have called 811 for all my digging.

I mainly want to show that I am taking responsibility for what occurred. I have educated my crew on the matter as well. I am happy to do the education course and take the corrective actions. I am concerned with getting a heavy financial penalty. I am a small company, single owner contractor running everything myself. As a company we are doing everything we can to keep all the legal requirements of insurances etc going and keep the crew paid on time every week. A heavy financial penalty will be devastating.

When the original representative reached out to me regarding this case I asked him what kind of penalties usually come with something like this. He mentioned usually in a small case like this where there are no injuries at all or damages. (other than patching the 1/2" pipe) usually its an educational penalty to ensure it doesn't happen in the future.

I am arranging to come up to Sacramento to be present for the hearing. I am hoping to show I truly do take this seriously and want to ensure I am following all the rules and regulations and that the "financial penalty" be limited as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted.

Cody Moore