



INSTRUCTIONS FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE WORKERS

In addition to the actual construction of buildings, working on a natural gas pipeline or its immediate vicinity can mean the building, implementation, repair and maintenance of access ways, subsurface drains, water supply and sewerage pipes, district heating cables, power lines and cables, signal lines and cables and other, even temporary, structures.

Instructions for the excavator driver in case of damage to a natural gas pipe

1. Turn off the excavator's engine and step out of the vehicle.
2. Prevent people from entering the danger area or its vicinity.
3. Prevent sparks and open fire at the site (smoking, cars)
4. Report immediately to the owner of the pipeline on +358 206 900 26 or the general emergency number 112

According to the law

Activities that might damage the natural gas pipes are prohibited on the natural gas pipelines. Digging in the immediate vicinity of the natural gas pipeline is prohibited without the permission of the owner or the operator of the pipeline. The person working at the natural gas pipeline is responsible for finding out about other structures in the area. In addition, other regulations of the Electricity Act must be taken into account.

Location of a natural gas pipe

Natural gas pipes are located approx. one metre underground. In the field, natural gas pipelines are usually marked with marking poles. In the planning area, the marking of the pipes can sometimes be replaced with reference point markings or map markings.

By request, the owner or the operator of the pipeline is responsible for clarifying the exact location of the pipe for a person working on the natural gas pipeline or its vicinity. The name of the user of the pipeline (operator) and telephone number can be found from a marking pole on the natural gas pipeline. In areas where marking poles are not used, always contact the operator of pipeline to determine the exact location of the natural gas pipeline.

Digging and covering

If digging is done closer than five (5) metres from a natural gas pipeline, the person in charge of the work has to contact the owner or the operator of the pipeline at least two working days prior to the work in order to obtain a digging permit. The owner or the operator of the pipeline shows the exact location of the pipe. Digging must be planned in advance. Digging and especially digging up natural gas pipelines should be done with special caution and by guidelines provided by the owner or the operator of the pipeline. When digging frozen ground, the soil must be thawed first as needed. If a natural gas pipe is dug up, it must not be covered without the permission of the owner or the operator of the pipeline.



Blasting

For excavation and blasting operations closer than 30 metres from a pipeline, permission is needed from the owner or the operator of the pipeline. In addition, large-scale excavation work closer than 100 metres is subject to a licence. The person in charge of the blasting operation has to present a work plan to the owner or the operator of the pipeline to show how the possible pipeline damaging boulder and mass dislocations and shaking caused by the blasting's pressure strokes are planned to be prevented.

Construction

Contact the owner or the operator of the pipeline when planning the construction of buildings closer than 20 metres from a natural gas pipeline.

Effects on electricity

When placing electroconductive structures, such as water pipes, sewers, underground cables, earthing system cables, marking lines etc., in the vicinity of the natural gas pipeline, it is the designer's and the builder's task to, in accordance with the Electricity Law regulations, ensure that the natural gas pipe and the new constructions do not have a harmful electrical effect between them.

Moving and storing on the natural gas pipelines

Crossing a natural gas pipeline with heavy machines must be avoided. If the sinking of machinery is expected, the crossing places of the pipe in soft soil must be strengthened in a manner approved by the owner or the operator.

Storing, for example, timber on the natural gas pipeline closer than five metres from the pipe is prohibited without the permission of the owner or the operator of the line.