



## Underground Utility Hits - NI

This update contains details from selected "Notice of Incidents" (NI) received by the Worker and Employer Services Division of the WCB. It is intended to provide employers and workers with timely information about the type of accidents occurring in their industry.

This information may help you prevent similar incidents in your workplace. THE NI INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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| <b>Total for January – December 2005 was 24</b>   |
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| Date of Accident : 2005-Feb<br>A skid-steer front end loader contacted an underground gas line.   |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Feb<br>A worker was exposing an underground gas line using a high-pressure hot water gun. The worker slipped, lost control of the wand, and was struck by a direct stream of scalding hot water.  |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Mar<br>An excavator hit a 60mm main gas line at a private residence.  |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Mar<br>An excavator contacted an underground ¾-inch, low-pressure, high-volume natural gas line, pulling the pipe from the valve and causing a release of natural gas..   |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Apr<br>An excavator dug up a 12-kV electrical line.   |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Apr<br>A backhoe contacted an underground service that was 30 metres away from its location on the drawing.   |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Aug<br>A "hot tap" was being performed on a natural gas service line (1 1/4 inches diameter, 60 pounds of pressure) when gas started to escape from the fused T-fitting. Instead of clearing the site, workers tried to vent the escaping gas away from the leak. A gas explosion occurred, burning one worker. |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Aug.<br>An excavator pulled an energized underground electrical conductor.  |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Aug.<br>An energized underground 12-kV power line was contacted by a drilling rig. The services were not in the location shown on the underground site service plan.  |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Aug<br>During excavation to upgrade sections of a municipal water line, a natural gas line was ruptured.  |
| Date of Accident : 2005-Aug<br>An excavator pulled up a 7200-volt underground electrical cable.   |

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| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Aug</p> <p>A skid-steer front end loader pulled a 60-mm main gas line at a residential property. Without adequate checking of the line, the area was backfilled. Shortly thereafter it was discovered that bottom of the line had split open and gas was blowing underground.</p>   |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>At separate locations, two residential natural gas lines (one ½-inch and the other ¾-inch diameter) were ruptured during excavation work for the upgrading of municipal water mains.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>A Backhoe broke through a conduit and pulled up an energized underground power line.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>A rubber-tired backhoe ruptured a 3/4 -inch natural gas line while excavating to install a new water line to a residential site.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>While digging for the sewer line, an excavator contacted an energized high-voltage underground power line.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>An excavator ruptured a ¾-inch natural gas line while digging.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sept</p> <p>An excavator broke ground and contacted a gas line that was not located where the site drawings indicated.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>A backhoe was excavating a soft spot in the street so repairs could be done. It hit and damaged a service nipple on a 3-inch gas main.</p>   |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>An excavator contacted a high-voltage underground conductor while preparing a site for the installation of a retaining wall.</p>   |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>Workers were constructing a chain-link fence. The fence posts had been previously installed, using an excavator to push them into place. One post was contacting an underground low-voltage, energized power conductor. The top rail was being completed and was not in contact with all the fence posts. A fence installer received an electrical shock when he grasped the energized metallic fence post in one hand, then touched the grounded metallic top rail with the other hand.</p> |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Nov</p> <p>An excavator exposed 3 underground high-voltage conductors. The protective plastic casing was cracked but the conductors were not damaged. The line had not been located by hand.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Nov</p> <p>During excavation to install a new electrical service, a 2-inch gas main was ruptured. No underground utilities had been located prior to excavating.</p>  |
| <p>Date of Accident : 2005-Dec</p> <p>While trying to locate an underground natural gas service, a utilities contractor ruptured the 2-inch line, resulting in a release of gas.</p>   |