



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: John Burford

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3225

Investigator: Howard Friend

Telephone: (317) 650-9105

Report Date: 7/30/12

### The Parties

Excavator: John Burford

Contact: John Burford

Address (City, State): 3933 152 PL SE, Mill Creek, Washington, 98012

Telephone: 248-705-0616

### Facility Owner Information:

Business Name: NIPSCO

Contact: Luke Selking

Address (City, State): 1501 Hale Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Telephone: (260) 439-1290

### Utility Line Impact:

Damage Date: 6/7/12

Damage Address: 4333 Evard Rd.

City: Fort Wayne

County: Allen

**Pipeline Facility**

Product Type: Natural Gas

Facility Type/Function: Service

Facility size: Unknown

Service Interruption: Yes

Number of Customers One

Repair Cost (if known): Unknown

**Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:**

Type of Equipment: Grader box

Type of work performed: Grading

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Excavator notify 811: No

**Locate Information:**

Excavator request locates: No

Indiana 811 ticket Number: NONE

**Incident Impact Information:**

Injuries: None

Fatalities: None

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service was damaged during grading of the drive.

**Findings:** The property owner at the time of the damage was grading the gravel drive with a grader box using a small tractor and damaged the natural gas service line.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

**Violation:** IC 8-1-26-16(g): Failure to provide notice of excavation.

NO

LOCATE

TICKET

PROVIDED



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Jul 3, 2012

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### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Carrie Ludwig (NIPSCO)

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 East 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): 219 962 0422

Fax number (*area code*): 219 962 0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

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### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: John Burford

Business address (*number and street*): 4333 Evard Rd

City, State, and ZIP code: Fort Wayne, IN

Telephone number (*area code*): 248 705 0616

Fax number (*area code*):

E-mail address:

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### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Grader/Scraper

Type of work performed: Grading

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**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Jun 7, 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

County: Allen \_\_\_\_\_

City: Fort Wayne \_\_\_\_\_

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
4333 Evard Rd \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest intersection: Saint Joe Rd \_\_\_\_\_

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

Was there a release of product? Yes

If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Was there a customer service interruption? Yes

If yes, how many affected? 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Property damage, Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Affected Facility Information**

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known: No locate requested \_\_\_\_\_

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: no locates \_\_\_\_\_

Was site marked by "White Lining"?

Were special instructions part of the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --No notification made to the one-call center

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### **Additional Comments**

Nipsco emergency repair ticket #: 1206073476

To: Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3225  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 E

From: John Burford  
3933 152 Pl. SE  
Mill Creek, WA. 98012  
248 705 0616  
john.burf@gmail.com

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to supply information regarding Preliminary Determination of Violation Case No. 3225 of the Pipeline Safety Division. Name is John Burford. I am the owner of the property in question 4333 Evard Rd Fort Wayne, 46835 which has been my residence until recently. The incident occurred while I was smoothing the gravel of my driveway. I have done this activity several times in the seven years have owned the property. I used a landscaping blade attached to a small compact tractor to smooth the gravel on the driveway. The point I wish to express is that **no** digging was being preformed, and the need to contact 811 “Call before you dig” was not warranted.

The damaged pipeline was a result of a failure to construct the pipeline to proper code in the 1950s when the house was built. The pipeline should have been two feet deep. Instead the pipeline was just below surface of the driveway. It was unreason to expect the pipeline to be so shallow.

The path the pipeline takes through my yard is well known to me. I have used “Call before you dig” a half dozen times. But in this instance I was not digging. This incident is similar to mowing your yard and cutting a pipeline with a mower blade.

I have attached a drawing and a picture to better show where the incident occurred and where the pipeline was found during the repair. Note: the incident occurred in front of the cable box.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions please contact at my new address:

John Burford  
3933 152 Pl. SE  
Mill Creek, WA. 98012  
248 705 0616  
john.burf@gmail.com

