

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date:

Incident Number: G 20200121-2989

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 1/20/2020, 10:55:00 AM

Location of the Incident: [REDACTED]

Los Angeles ,CA

County: Los Angeles

Summary of Incident:

On January 20, 2020, at approximately 2254 hours, SoCalGas' crews were performing a gas leakage survey and found a gas leak indication on a SoCalGas' 3-inch steel plug valve. SoCalGas' Distribution Crew cut out and removed the 3-inch steel plug valve from service. There were no injuries, fatalities or property damage reported as the result of this incident. SED investigation did not find any General Order (GO)112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 0

Property Damage: \$11,000.00

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 3 (inches), MAOP = 40 (psi), Operating Pressure = 35 (psi)

Witnesses:

Name

Title

Phone

1	Sann Naing	CPUC Investigator	N/A
2	██████████	Pipeline Safety & Compliance	██████████
3	Austin Walker	Pipeline Safety & Compliance	(818) 632-8407
4	Mahmoud Intably	Program and Project Superv	(213) 576-7016

Evidence:

	<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	██████████ of SoCalGas	initial report on 1/21/20
2	██████████ of SoCalGas	Data responses on 1/24/20, 2/14/20, and 2/19/20
3	██████████ of SoCalGas	Report Retraction emails on 2/19/20

Observations and Findings:

On January 10, 2020, at approximately 0945 hours, SoCalGas' Customer Service Center received a call of area odor at ██████████, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County. SoCalGas' first responder arrived on scene at approximately 1030 hour, performed a gas leakage survey and found a gas leak indication on a SoCalGas' 3-inch underground steel gas main. SoCalGas Distribution Crew (Crew) was dispatched and potholed the area to center the gas leak. The Crew excavated the area and found a Code one leak on a flanged connection on the 3-inch steel plug valve per SoCalGas' Gas Standard 223.0125 – Leakage Classification and Mitigation Schedule. The Crew torqued the flange's bolts to stop the leak and consulted with SoCalGas' Engineering Department to install a canopy and abandoned the non-critical valves in place. The Engineering Department provided the design/specification to start the prefabrication of the canopy. SoCalGas' Crew performed a gas leakage survey and found zero gas indication, covered the excavation site with a steel plate until the prefabrication canopy ready for installation over the 3-inch steel plug valve.

On January 13, 2020, SoCalGas' Customer Services received an area odor complaint, SoCalGas' first responder arrived and performed a gas leakage survey and re-classified the gas leak on the SoCalGas' 3-inch steel plug valve as a non-hazardous leak.

On January 20, 2020, at approximately 2254 hours, SoCalGas' Customer Service Center received area odor complaints. SoCalGas' crew responded and identified Code one leak on the same 3-inch steel plug valve. Upon further investigation, the 3-inch steel plug valve's flange found to have a crack. The Crew was dispatched and started a remediation without waiting for the completion of the prefabrication canopy.

On January 21, 2020, at 0315 hours, the Crew completed the installation of pressure control fitting to isolate the 3-inch steel plug valve while maintain service to some of the downstream customers.

On January 21, 2020, at 12:30 hours, SED's staff arrived on the scene and met with SoCalGas' representative Mr. Austin Walker along with SoCalGas' Crew who were performing isolation to cut out and remove the 3-inch steel plug valve. Mr. Walker stated that the Crew was working on cutting out approximately one-foot section along with the 3-inch steel plug valve. SED observed the Crew performed the cutting and the removal of the 3-inch steel plug valve.

On January 22, 2020, SoCalGas Crew completed the repair and restored service to the affected customers (184 customers).

SoCalGas' Crew tagged the 3-inch steel gate valve, inserted in a plastic bag, sealed the plastic bag, and transported to Pico Engineering Analysis Center for further examination to determine the cause of the crack.

SoCalGas will coordinate with SED to perform the necessary tests to determine the root cause of the crack on the 3-inch steel plug valve's flange.

SoCalGas initially reported this incident to DOT and CPUC due to gas release and anticipated cost of repairs to exceed \$50,000, reporting requirement of 49 CFR, Part 191. After re-evaluating the, costs for property damage, repairs, and emergency response, SoCalGas said that actual total cost was \$11,000.

On February 19, 2020, SoCalGas retracted the DOT and the CPUC reports, because the incident did not meet the reporting requirements of both the Title 49 CFR, Part 191 and GO 112-F.

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

<i>General Order</i>	<i>GO Rule</i>
1 GO112F	Section 122
2 GO112F	49 CFR 192

Conclusion:

SED's investigation found that SoCalGas' employees followed SoCalGas' Gas Standards to investigate, make repair, and restore service to the affected customers. Therefore, SED did not find any GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.