



October 2, 2020

South Dakota Once Call Notification Board

RE: SDSTA Waterline – MDU Gas Line Damage 9/12/2020 – Complaint OC20-066

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this in response to the MDU complaint referenced above for the gas line damage on 9/12/2020. RCS Construction, Inc. takes safety very seriously at all levels from management to supervisors to every employee and subcontractor in the field. We strive to abide by the OSHA standards.

We acknowledge that the locate ticket on this jobsite had expired the previous day and that a new ticket should have been called in 48 hours in advance of that ticket expiring. We feel that we have taken steps in the past to properly train and educate our employees on 811 laws and the importance of always having active locate tickets on the jobsite but with this incident on this project we know that we need to take further action.

In response to this incident we have: assisted SDSTA personnel with incident reports regarding the hit, discussed and evaluated the incident with RCS, owner/contractors working within the Sanford Underground Research Facility that were impacted by the incident. RCS also held a meeting with all Superintendents within the company and emphasized the importance and procedures of locate tickets.

While there is no excuse for not updating our locate ticket in the proper time, we would like to document that the gas line that was damaged in this incident was not properly located by MDU and/or their locator. We have enclosed a picture of the area surrounding the 4" gas line prior to construction but after the locate ticket was cleared – no marks were made identifying the line. RCS also discussed the project and site extensively with RCS project management team and SDSTA facility/safety personnel and reviewed the area after the progress meeting on Tuesday 9/8, specifically to identify and review potential hazards and obstructions that would be encountered on Saturday 9/12 during the gate crossing portion of the project. RCS, SDSTA and other personnel closely walked the site and no clearly apparent marks indicating the gas line was present were visible – at the time of this walk, there had been no asphalt removal or construction occurred that could have reasonably destroyed properly placed locate marks. RCS requests a copy of locate marks documented by MDU locator in response to RCS ticket #2023284922. After the line was hit, crews looked outside of the work area and two old/concealed marks were discovered. We believe that flags found after searching outside of reasonable work limits were not recent or part of RCS locate ticket.

We would also like to note that throughout the course of this project, RCS has completed daily tool box talks (several attached) and have completed weekly or more frequently site safety audits by RCS safety aside from part time (20 hrs/week) onsite safety representative.

In addition, RCS provided significant support to MDU operations to expedite repairs to the damaged utility. Had RCS not provided this support, impact to adjacent homeowners and repairs to the utility line could have taken significantly longer as insufficient response was dispatched.

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P.O. Box 9337 • Rapid City, SD 57709
Phone (605) 342-3787 • Fax (605) 348-4041
www.rcsconst.com





Timeline - Saturday September 12, 2020

8:34 AM – RCS crews struck 4” steel gas main while excavating through Ross Complex Entrance Gate. Utility was not marked in locate ticket #2023284922, called in on 8/19/2020. No contact was made by MDU or locating service on behalf of MDU prior to or during work onsite regarding any buried utilities. After the damage and review of the area locates from previous tickets were discovered behind a building and on the slope away from the work area – marks were clearly old and from prior tickets as stated in the MDU complaint mark. RCS called 811/911 immediately to notify proper authorities of the damage and relocate public in affected area. RCS and other employees working within the facility evacuated to a safe area immediately. RCS contacted SDSTA personnel to begin emergency notification process.

9:30 AM – Derek Austin arrived onsite from MDU to begin shutting down the line. MDU did not have a valve in the area to isolate the line and did not have equipment to expose the line in a different location to install a valve. Joel Williams with RCS left the site to get a mini-excavator to assist MDU with exposing the line.

10:30-11:00 AM – Additional MDU crew of 2-3 personnel arrive onsite. With RCS assistance, MDU crews began installing cut in valve to isolate the line. RCS assisted crews in every way possible to quickly install the valve and get the gas shut down.

1:00 PM – Gas was shut off and repairs to damaged location could begin.

6:30 PM – Gas line repaired and turned back on

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM – MDU relighting pilot lights and restoring service to impacted homes.

Our projects are typically known for excellence in the safety of our workers and subcontractors’ employees, but also the safety of our clients and other contractors working in the facility and citizens in the surrounding area which is why we take these incidents so seriously.

Given the information stated above and additional information enclosed, RCS requests that this complaint be rejected and damages suspended as MDU and their locators failed to properly mark the 4” gas line.

Kind Regards,

RC Scull
RC Scull

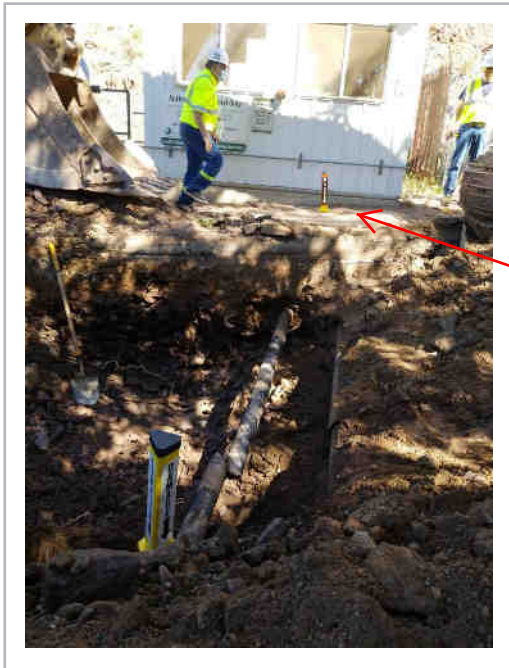
President

RCS Construction, Inc.

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Date: 09/13/2020 12:47 AM America/Denver

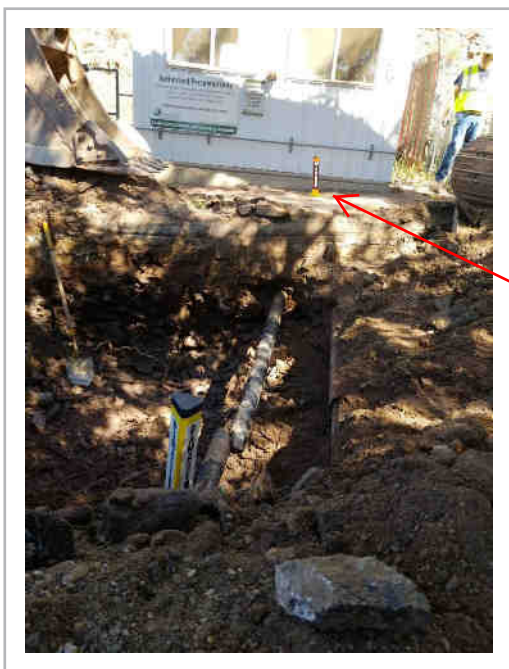
Latitude: 44.347130

Longitude: -103.759009

Heading: 83 degrees



No locate marks
present where
claimed. See red
pictures

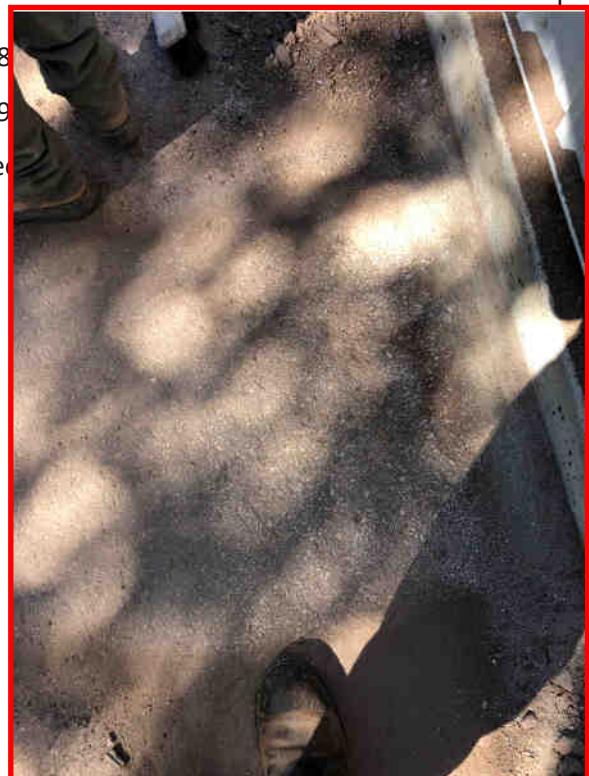



Date: 09/13/2020 12:47 AM America/Denver

Latitude: 44.347128

Longitude: -103.759

Heading: 133 degrees





Picture of site taken from RCS Construction existing conditions documentation taken on Monday August 24th at 11:30 AM. No locations or marks of any sort visible near gas line. Ticket #2023284922 cleared on 8/21 at 11:15 AM so the 4" gas line should have been clearly identified at the time of this picture.

9/12/2020 Damage

Site Map

Waterline Alignment

Approx. Location of hidden, clearly old locate mark (see picture 2)

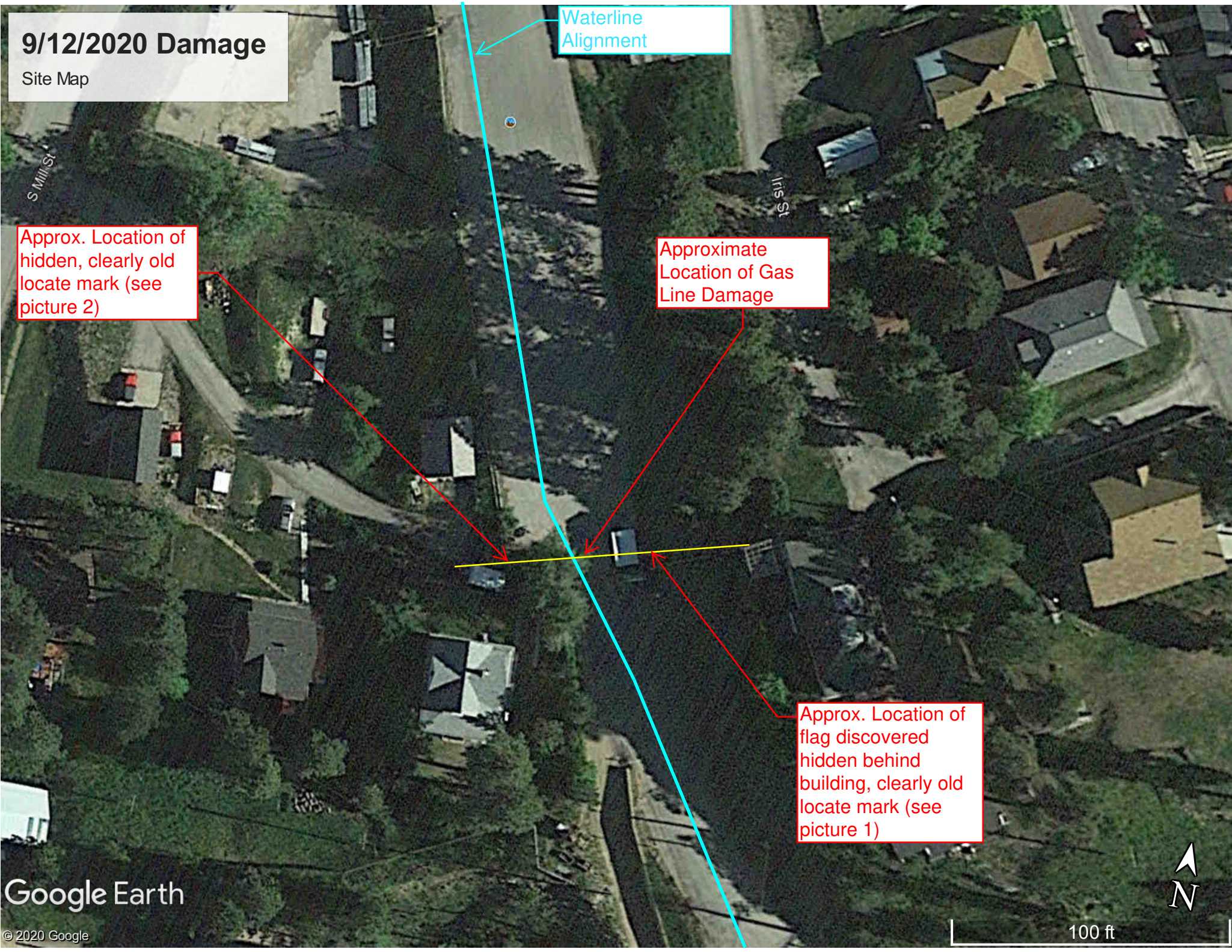
Approximate Location of Gas Line Damage

Approx. Location of flag discovered hidden behind building, clearly old locate mark (see picture 1)

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

100 ft





Picture #1 - Old flag behind building - placed from previous locate ticket - not re-marked for RCS ticket #2023284922 called in on 8/19. Flag is sun faded and clearly old.



Picture #2 - Old marking on guard rail placed from previous locate ticket - not re-marked for RCS ticket #2023284922 called in on 8/19. Flag is sun faded and clearly old.

https://www.bhpioneer.com/local_news/homes-evacuated-in-lead-caused-by-minor-gas-line-break/article_f29ea1b0-f535-11ea-9c1e-571370743ec1.html

Homes evacuated in Lead caused by minor gas line break

By Alex Portal Black Hills Pioneer
Sep 12, 2020



Approximately 25 homes have been evacuated near the top of Mill Street in Lead due to a gas line, which has been struck by crews installing water lines near the Ross Headframe. Pioneer photo by Alex Portal

LEAD – At approximately 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, members of the Lead Volunteer Fire Department and Lead Police Department responded to a call about a broken gas line which had been struck while crews for RCS Construction were installing water lines near the Ross Campus at the Sanford Underground Research Facility.

“It’s kind of a high traffic area, we were trying to get the water line installed in that area so that it wouldn’t interrupt construction during the week,” said Mike Headley, laboratory director at the Sanford Lab. “That’s why they were digging on a Saturday.”

Headley said that while the RCS crew was installing a pipe near the Ross guard gate, a 4-inch gas line was struck.

“The Ross complex, our staff has been evacuated, and as I understand there are a number of residents nearby that have been evacuated as well,” he said.

Rob Carr, with the Lead Volunteer Fire Department, said they had evacuated approximately 25 homes in the area as a precaution while the gas line was being replaced, but didn’t feel the need to relocate anyone.

“Because this is a short term evacuation, we didn’t set up a shelter for them,” he said.

“Thankfully it sounds like we’ve got a little bit of a breeze to the north, so it’s blowing (the gas), in large part, away from the residential section,” Headley added. “We’re just trying to treat this as seriously as we need to make sure they don’t get hurt, but we apologize for interrupting their Saturday as a result.”

Headley estimated work on the line could take the majority of the day. He thanked everyone who had responded to the incident and applauded them for responding quickly and effectively to prevent any injuries.

"I thank the fire and police who are on site right now along with our emergency response team and MDU trying to address it," he said.

Constance Walter, communications director for the Sanford Lab said that there is always a utility line assessment done prior to any digging around the facility.


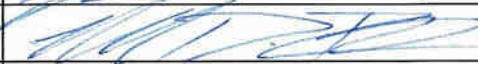

"We had confirmation that there were no gas lines or other utility lines in the area before the digging began," she said.

Headley said that, as with any safety incident, an investigation will take place to figure out how the incident occurred, and what can be done to prevent a similar event in the future.






"Any sort of safety incident we always investigate to figure out what we could have done better," he said.

The MDU offices could not be reached for immediate comment.

TOOL BOX SAFETY MEETING

Date: 9/14	Time: 0630	Jobsite: SOSTA
Meeting Conducted By: Joel W		
Previous Accidents/Incidents Reviewed :		
Gas line hit		
Today's Topics:		
What to do if you hit a line		
Name	Signature	
1. Joel Williams		
2. Mike Bennett		
3. Krystal Robison		
4.		
5.		
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18.		

TOOL BOX SAFETY MEETING

Date: 9/15/20	Time: 0700	Jobsite: SDSTA
Meeting Conducted By: Joel W		
Previous Accidents/Incidents Reviewed : gas line hit		
Today's Topics: Lifting techniques		
#	Name	Signature
1.	Joel W	
2.	Monte Weigert	
3.	Mike Bennett	
4.	Lance Hubbard	
5.	Krystal Robison	
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16.		
17.		
18.		

From: locates@sd811.com
To: [Evan Walterman](#)
Subject: Locate Message
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:06:06 PM

To update or view a map of the dig location click [here](#) to go to the South Dakota 811 Portal Site.

South Dakota 811 Locate Request

Ticket Number:	2023284922	Old Ticket:	
Source:	Portal Ticket	Date:	8/19/2020 1:05:59 PM
Type:	Normal	Update By:	9/9/2020 1:00:00 PM
Seq Num:	1	Expires On:	9/11/2020 1:00:00 PM

Company Information

Excavator:	R.C.S. CONSTRUCTION	Type:	Excavator
Address:	1314 Fountain Plaza Drive	Contact:	Steve Schroeder
City, St, Zip:	Rapid City, SD 57702	Contact Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Phone:	(605) 342-3787	Alt Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Fax:		Caller:	Evan Walterman
Caller Email:	evan@rcsconst.com	Caller Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Contact Email:	evan@rcsconst.com		

Work Information

State:	SD	Work Date:	8/21/2020 1:00:00 PM
County:	LAWRENCE	Done For:	R.C.S. Construction
Place:	LEAD	Duration:	4 Months
Address:	0 Rosebud Ln	Explosives::	No
Intersection:	Cemetery St	R.O.W.:	Yes
Nature of Work:	Utility Installation	Tunnel/Bore:	No
Meet Requested:	No	Meet Date/Time:	
TRSQ:		Depth:	8'

Driving Directions

RCS will be installing an industrial and potable waterline starting just South of the intersection of Cemetery Street and Rosebud Lane (Mill Street) South to the entrance to the Ross Headframe Yard.

Remarks

Work Date: 8/21/2020 11:15:00 AM The work area is just South of the intersection of Cemetery Street and Rosebud Lane (Mill Street) to the entrance gate of the Ross Headframe Yard. Locate the entire roadway and 10 feet to the East/West of the roadway. Contact Joel Williams with questions on the work area at (605) 389-6308

Members

Code	Name	Manually Added
BH3	Black Hills Power and Light Company	False
BHF	Vast Broadband	False
LDC	City Of Lead	False
LDD	Lead-deadwood Sanitary District	False
MT4	Montana-Dakota Utilities Company	False
SDC	Midcontinent Communications	False
UW1	CTLQL-CenturyLink	False

Work Location Bounding Box

Latitude:	44.346726	Longitude:	-103.759799
Second Latitude:	44.348338	Second Longitude:	-103.758382

In the future you can submit your tickets quick and easy online at the [South Dakota 811 Portal Site](#).

Know what's below and also remember to be careful around overhead power lines.

Sophia Newman

From: Evan Walterman
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2020 7:42 AM
To: Sophia Newman
Subject: FW: Locate Message

From: locates@sd811.com <locates@sd811.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Evan Walterman <evan@rcsconst.com>
Subject: Locate Message

To update or view a map of the dig location click [here](#) to go to the South Dakota 811 Portal Site.

South Dakota 811 Locate Request

Ticket Number:	2025600961	Old Ticket:	
Source:	Voice	Date:	9/12/2020 10:59:52 AM
Type:	Damage	Update By:	10/1/2020 2:00:00 PM
Seq Num:	1	Expires On:	10/3/2020 2:00:00 PM

Company Information

Excavator:	R.C.S. CONSTRUCTION	Type:	Excavator
Address:	1314 Fountain Plaza Drive	Contact:	Steve Schroeder
City, St, Zip:	Rapid City, SD 57702	Contact Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Phone:	(605) 342-3787	Alt Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Fax:		Caller:	Evan Walterman
Caller Email:	evan@rcsconst.com	Caller Phone:	(605) 209-3239
Contact Email:	evan@rcsconst.com		

Work Information

State:	SD	Work Date:	9/12/2020 2:00:00 PM
County:	LAWRENCE	Done For:	R.C.S. Construction
Place:	LEAD	Duration:	4 Months
Address:	0 Rosebud Ln	Explosives::	No
Intersection:	Cemetery St	R.O.W.:	Yes
Nature of Work:	DAMAGED GAS LINE	Tunnel/Bore:	No
Meet Requested:	No	Meet Date/Time:	
TRSQ:		Depth:	8'

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Remarks

DAMAGED GAS LINE- 2023284922- GAS IS BLOWING- CUST SVC UNKNOWN- CREW ON SITE AND EN ROUTE- THE DAMAGE OCCURRED RIGHT AT THE GATE ENTRYWAY TO A PROPERTY WITHIN THE WORK AREA. Utilities must respond within 2 hours M-F and within 4 hours after working hours.

Members

<u>Code</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Manually Added</u>
BH3	Black Hills Power and Light Company	False
BHF	Vast Broadband	False
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