

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Safety and Enforcement Division Gas Safety and Reliability Branch

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 09/16/2020

Investigator: Randy Holter

Incident Number: G 20200801-3091

Utility: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Date and Time of the Incident: 08/01/2020, 01:21:00 PM

Location of the Incident: [REDACTED]
Cambria, CA

County: San Luis Obispo

Summary of Incident:

On August 1, 2020, at 1321 hours, a third-party vehicle, a pickup truck, struck a SoCalGas Meter Set Assembly (MSA) in a commercial center causing a gas release, ignition and fire. The incident caused a service interruption to ten (10) commercial customers and one residential customer. There were no injuries or fatalities reported as the result of this incident. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by the vehicle exiting the designated path of travel on the parking area, colliding with SoCalGas' MSA guard posts (bollards) and came to rest on top of the SoCalGas' MSA. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: 0

Injuries: 0

Property Damage: \$112,271

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 0.75 (inches), MAOP = 60 (psi),
Operating Pressure = 43 (psi)

Gas Engineering and Compliance Section**Witnesses:**

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1	██████████	SCG, Safety & Compliance	██████████
2	William Hollingsworth	Fire Chief, Cambria CCSD	805 927 6240

Evidence:

	<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	SoCalGas, ██████████	Web Gas Incident SoCalGas No: 200801-13586
2	SoCalGas, ██████████	USRB Gas Incident Report G20200801-3091 SLO
3	SoCalGas, ██████████	CPUS 420-INITIAL Report
4	SoCalGas, ██████████	CPUS 420-FINAL Report with picture attachments
5	Cambria CSD	Fire Chief Fire Report #009851

Observations and Findings:

On August 1, 2020, at 1321 hours, a third-party vehicle struck a SoCalGas Meter Set Assembly (MSA) at ██████████ (was reported by SoCalGas as ██████████), in the city of Cambria, in San Luis Obispo County causing a gas release and ignition. There were no injuries or fatalities reported as the result of this incident. The incident caused a service interruption to ten (10) commercial customers and one residential customer. The incident became both DOT (#1283445) and the CPUC reportable due to the cost of repair potentially exceeding \$50k.

The Cambria Community Services District Fire Dept (CCSD-FD) responded and notified SoCalGas' Call Center. SoCalGas' Gas District Emergency Crews (GDEC) responded and arrived on the scene at approximately 1350 hours. The GDEC excavated a control point upstream of the MSA to squeeze the gas service line feeding the commercial center and at 1731 hours the flow of gas was under control.

CCSD-FA with the assistant of a towing company was able to remove the vehicle and on August 2, 2020, at 1030 hours, SoCalGas installed a new MSA, bollards, and restored gas service to all affected customers.

The impact of the crash bent the bollards protecting the MSA, breaking a nipple downstream of the service valve, resulting in gas release and ignition.

Satellite photos of the incident site shows the MSA located at 'A Matter of Taste' store building wall in a corner of the parking lot and cinderblock property wall adjacent to an alley. Photos at the time of the incident fire suppression show a pickup truck resting partially on the business structure wall, on top of the protecting bollards and MSA, with the front wheels hanging over into the alley. The SoCalGas final reports the vehicle lost control and crashed into the left corner of the business. The impact of the crash, bent the bollards protecting the MSA, breaking a nipple downstream of the service valve, thus causing a gas release and ignition. Photos of the incident site shortly after occurrence corroborate the SoCalGas report.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ steel service line and the 2-inch steel main were installed in 1968.

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

<i>General Order</i>	<i>GO Rule</i>
1 GO112-F	49 CFR Part 191, 192

Conclusion:

Based on the investigation, SED found that the incident was caused by the pickup truck exiting the designated path of travel on the parking area, colliding with SoCalGas' MSA guard posts (bollards) and came to rest on top of the SoCalGas' MSA. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.

Appendix A

GAS INCIDENT REPORT FIELD EVIDENCE – Photos



YELLOW – Location of Incident



FIRE SUPPRESSION August 01, 2020



PRIOR TO FIRE – View from Main Street toward 'A Matter of Taste' parking lot



Looking from Museum Alley toward Main Street. Arrow to damaged MSA

