

## Damaged Apparatus

### Don't try and fix it – seek help immediately

HAUC(UK) understands that everyone needs to prioritise safety when dealing with buried apparatus damages. All damages should be reported to respective emergency service centres. Additionally, all operatives follow their own company reporting safety procedures which usually involve reporting and logging of the details including how the damage occurred. Unauthorised repairs using unsuitable equipment without proper testing pose serious danger to the operatives conducting the work and potentially cause future risks including the potential for serious incident and even fatalities if left unaddressed. This guidance represents a raft of primary and secondary health and safety legislation and clarifies the responsibility to adhere to legal duties as well as good practice guidelines.

#### Here are some key points to consider:

- A vital aspect of street and road works activities is the location and avoidance of underground apparatus; therefore, all steps should be taken to avoid damage to apparatus.
- Under no circumstances should unauthorised repairs be made to damaged apparatus.
- Unauthorised repairs made to apparatus can reasonably and foreseeably lead to a serious incident and this disregard for Health and Safety Guidance places people and property at risk.
- Any unauthorised attempts at repairing underground apparatus will be documented and reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Any individual or company found engaging in unauthorised repairs may be held accountable for costs associated with rectifying the situation. There is also the potential for legal action or fines.
- If damage is caused or prior damage is discovered, please promptly report gas-related issues to the **National Gas Emergency number 0800 111 999**, and **electricity**-related problems to **105**. For damages to water pipes, sewers, and telecommunications equipment, get in touch with your local water and communications company.
- If you damage any street furniture or any private apparatus you must report this to the appropriate asset owner.
- By following the Health and Safety Executive guidelines, the commitment to safety and responsible actions will not only safeguard lives but also maintain the integrity of our underground apparatus and services.
- Signing up to NUAR (the national underground asset register) can help with locating apparatus. The emerging service is improving the efficiency and safety of underground works by providing secure access to privately and publicly owned location data about the pipes and cables beneath our feet. The digital map gives planners and excavators standardised access to the data they need, when they need it, to carry out their work effectively and safely. It also includes features to keep data secure and improve its quality over time.

Below are instances illustrating unauthorised gas repairs.

