

- inform the public in nearby buildings and ask them to leave where there is imminent danger from the suspected gas leak;
- prohibit smoking and extinguish naked flames in the immediate area;
- do not use mobile phones, pagers, or any kind of electrical equipment in the area where there is a smell of gas. These could cause the gas to ignite and a fire or explosion may result;
- no one should be allowed to re-enter the area of the gas leak until the area has been declared safe by the fire services officer in charge of the scene;
- where possible inform the gas supply company using their 24 hour hot-line number.

### PENALTIES

The new Regulations provide heavy penalties for causing damage to gas pipes. Maximum penalties that can now be imposed are a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for up to 12 months.

### ENQUIRIES

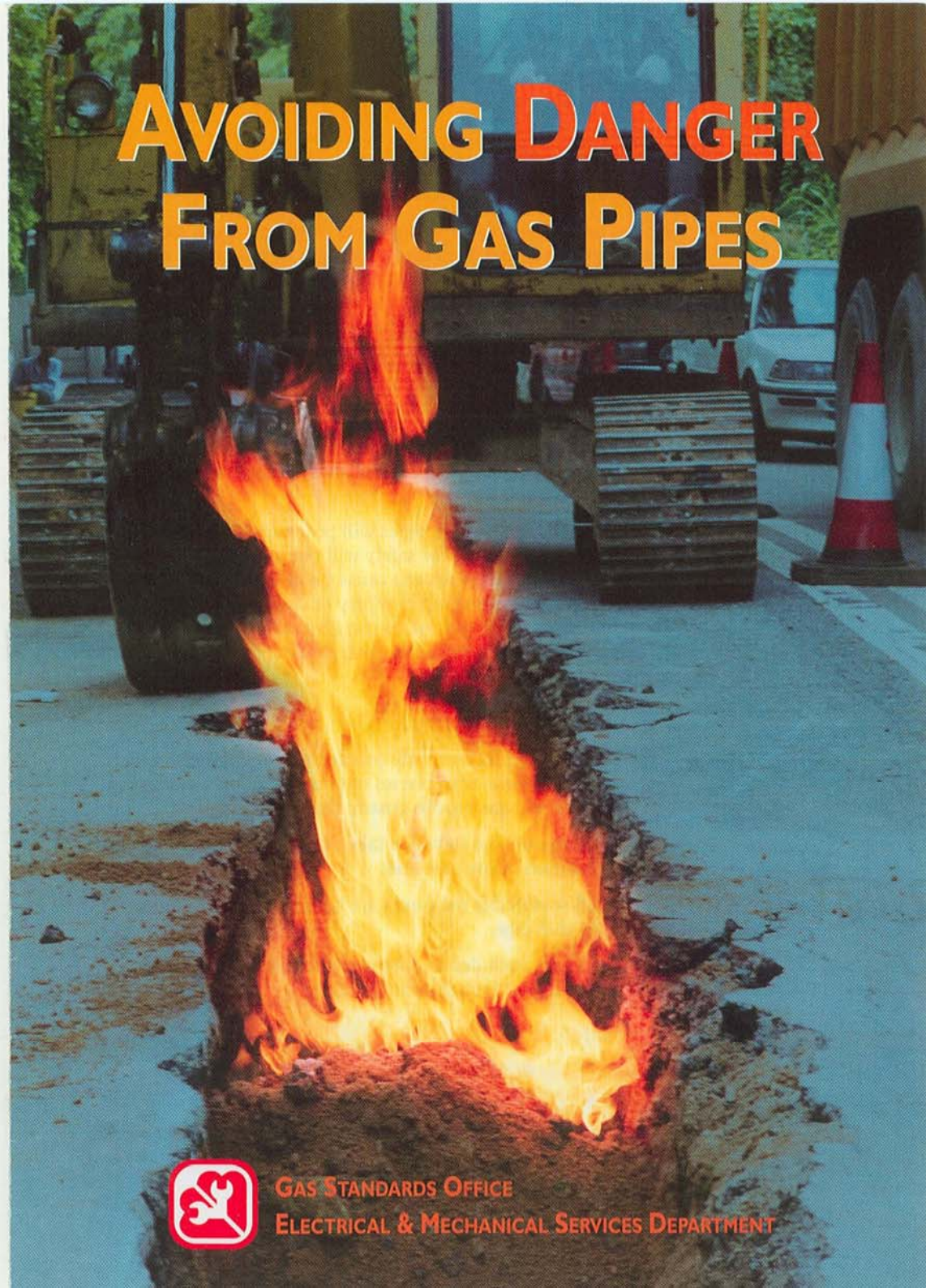
Enquiries may be made to -

The Gas Standards Office,  
Electrical & Mechanical Services Department,  
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon,  
Hong Kong

Telephone 1 8 2 3

This leaflet has been prepared for general information only. For specific guidance on this topic, reference should be made to the code of practice prepared by the Gas Authority. This is entitled "Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes" and copies of this and the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations CAP 51, can be purchased from Government Publications Centres.

# AVOIDING DANGER FROM GAS PIPES



**NEW REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ENACTED WHICH MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO DAMAGE GAS PIPES.**

**A CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE AVOIDANCE OF DANGER FROM GAS PIPES HAS BEEN INTRODUCED. THIS SETS STANDARDS FOR CARRYING OUT WORKS NEAR GAS MAINS AND FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN PEOPLE PROPOSING TO CARRY OUT WORKS AND THE GAS SUPPLY COMPANIES.**

**THIS BROCHURE PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW REGULATION AND THE CODE OF PRACTICE**

## **GAS PIPES MAY BE FOUND ALMOST ANYWHERE !**

Gas mains and services may be found almost anywhere in Hong Kong and you must therefore always expect to find gas pipes wherever you work.

When treated with care gas pipes will pose no significant risk but carelessness or disregard for safety will put you and your workers at risk. Damaging gas pipes can cause great danger and may lead to fires, explosions resulting in injury or death of workers and the public. Damage to gas mains can also seriously disrupt gas supplies to the surrounding area, causing great inconvenience to the public.



## **THE NEW LEGISLATION**

Government has recently enacted new regulations which require anyone who carries out construction work in the vicinity of a gas pipe to ensure that:

- all reasonable steps are taken to identify the location and position of the pipe and;
- all reasonable measures are taken to prevent damage to that pipe.

These are included as amendments to the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations CAP 51.

## **WORKING SAFELY**

### **OBTAIN RECORD PLANS FROM THE GAS SUPPLY COMPANY**

- The contractor &/or person who actually carries out the works is responsible for ensuring that gas pipes are located before work begins and thereafter protected from damage.

- They must seek information and plans from the gas supply company about the location of gas pipes in the vicinity, well before any works are begun.
- Contractors must ensure that the information obtained is passed to the person actually carrying out the work and that he understands what safety precautions are required.

### **USE OF PIPE LOCATORS**

- Pipe locators must be used to check the accuracy of the record plans provided by the gas supply company before any excavation takes place.
- Pipe locators should only be used by experienced people who have received specific training in how to use them. The positions of pipes found by using the locator should be clearly marked on the road surface.

### **TRIAL HOLES**

- Trial holes should be excavated along the route of the proposed works using hand tools, so as to ensure that there is an adequate separation distance between any gas pipes and the proposed works.
- Buried pipes may look similar to each other and it is often difficult to identify exactly which are gas pipes and which belong to other utilities. If you are not sure what a pipe is, always assume that it is in use and that it may be hazardous until the appropriate utility company has advised otherwise.

### **DAMAGE AND GAS LEAKS**

If a gas pipe is damaged call the gas supply company immediately and ask them to repair it. Even if there is only very slight damage; perhaps to the wrapping on a steel main, the company should still be called to ensure that no long term damage can result. **Minor damage that is not dealt with properly can endanger people's lives in the future.**

If you suspect that there is a gas leak, take the following action -

- call the Fire Services Department on 2723 2233 or the Police hot-line 999;
- evacuate all workers and members of the public from the immediate area of the leak and from all excavations where leaking gas might be found;

