

# Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes



# Introduction

The carrying out of refurbishment works within the boundary of a housing estate is very common. If works such as water works, drainage works, fire services works, electricity wiring works, telecommunication cabling works, landscape works or road resurfacing works carried out, or to be carried out, near gas pipes involve excavation or any other means of penetrating the ground at or below surface level, gas pipes may be damaged. Damaging gas pipe can cause gas leak, fires or explosions, posing risks to the housing estate and the public. This leaflet is prepared in accordance with the Gas safety (Gas Supply) Regulations under the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51 to provide guidance to estate management companies on how to supervise excavation works carried out, or to be carried out, within their estate boundaries.



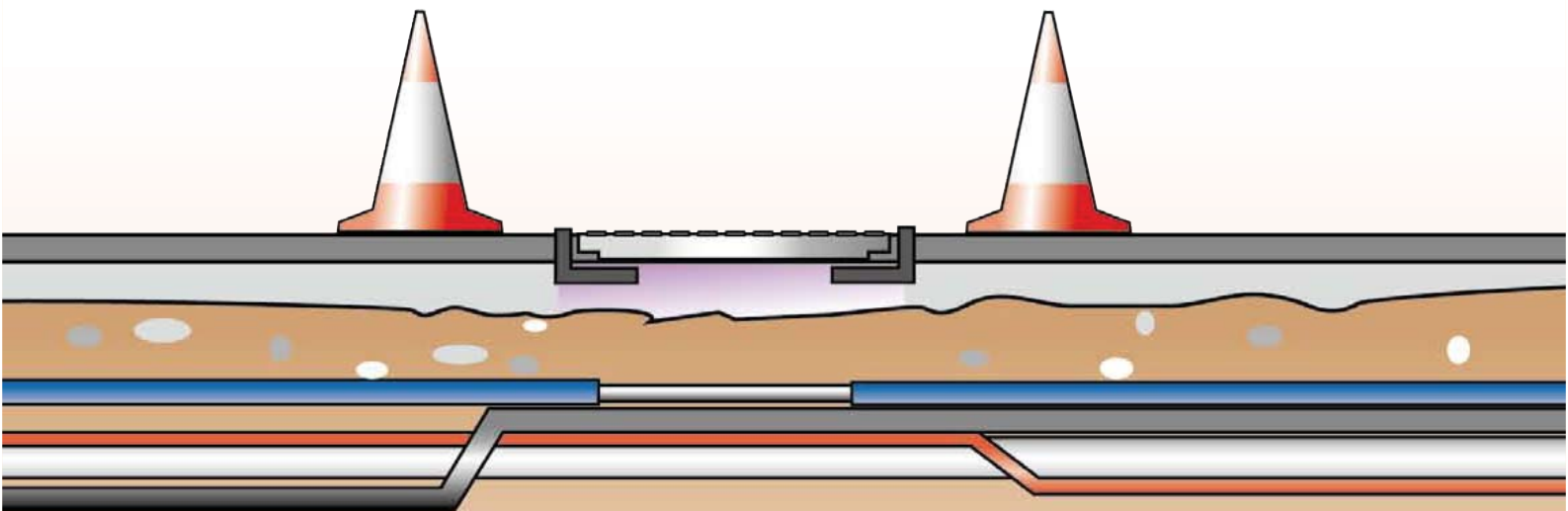
## Gas Pipes May be Found Everywhere

Gas pipes mean service pipes or gas mains used, or to be used, to supply town gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to every user and most gas mains are buried underground.

## Points to Note for Estate Management Companies

### An estate management company should:

- 1) Know the types and locations of all gas installations within the estate boundary, for example, gas governor kiosks, LPG compounds, underground gas pipes, etc., and take note of the instructions and the 24-hour hotline posted outside the gas installations. In case of enquiries, the concerned registered gas supply company or the gas installation owner/operator should be contacted.



2) remind the contractor(s) to comply with the requirements of Regulation 23A of the Gas safety (Gas Supply) Regulations before the commencement of the works in the vicinity of gas pipes within the estate boundary to ensure that:

- all reasonable steps are taken to ascertain the location and position of the gas pipe and;
- all reasonable measures are taken to protect the gas pipe from damage.

3) inform the registered gas supply company or the gas installation owner/operator before the commencement of the works in the vicinity of gas pipes within the estate boundary so that the concerned parties can exchange information on construction method statements, pipe route records, etc. and provide assistance when necessary.

4) exercise adequate supervision over the carrying out of the works in the vicinity of gas pipes within the estate boundary.



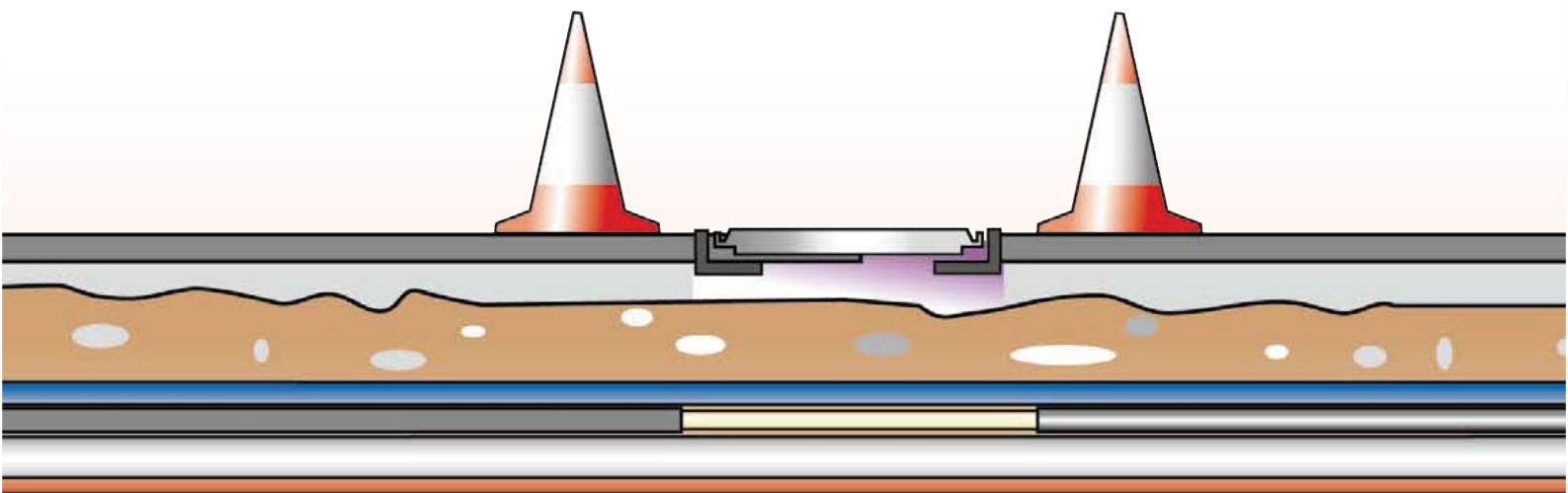
## Code of Practice

A Code of Practice entitled “Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes” has been prepared by the Gas Authority and approved and brought into effect in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51. The Code of Practice can be purchased at the Publication Sales Unit of the Information Services Department or accessed via the internet at <http://www.emsd.gov.hk>.



## Penalties

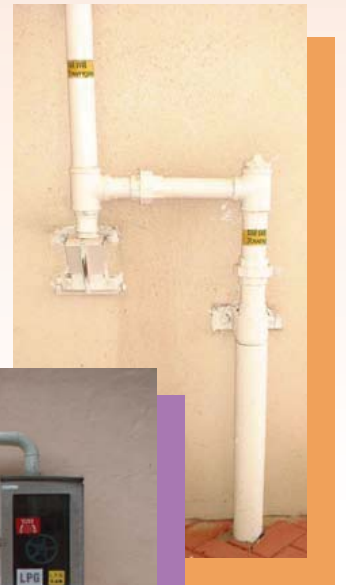
Under the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, gas installation owner/operator, estate management companies and works contractors are all responsible for avoiding damage to gas pipes. Any person who contravenes the regulations commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months.



# Damaged or Leaking Gas Pipes

If a gas pipe is damaged, the registered gas supply company or the gas installation operator should be called immediately for emergency repair. If a gas leak is suspected, the following actions should be taken immediately:

- call the Fire Services Department or the Police hotline 999;
- call the 24-hour hotline of the registered gas supply company or the gas installation operator and ask for emergency repair;
- evacuate all workers and members of the public from the immediate area of the gas leak;
- 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 and any electrical equipment in the area where there is a smell of gas.



## Enquiry

For further information, please contact the Gas Authority of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

**Note:** This leaflet is not a legal document and is prepared for general information only. Copies of the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51 and its subsidiary regulations can be purchased from the Publications Sales Unit of the Information Services Department or accessed via the internet at <http://www.legislation.gov.hk>.

**EMSD**



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