

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 06/24/2020

Incident Number: G 20200503-3034

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 5/3/2020, 12:00:00 AM

Location of the Incident: [REDACTED]
Lancaster ,CA
County: Los Angeles

Summary of Incident:

On May 3, 2020, at approximately 0115 hours, [REDACTED], was driving a Chevy Corvette, when he drove over his neighbor's lawn and into his neighbor's garage damaging the southeast wall of the garage. The impact cause damage to the garage, the electrical panel, gas meter, and resulted in gas escaping into the atmosphere. The escaped gas ignited and started a small fire on the southeast wall of the garage. Mr. [REDACTED] sustained head injuries and was transported to the local hospital for treatment. The SED investigation found that the gas meter was located in an area away from anticipated vehicular damage. In addition, Mr. [REDACTED] drove over his neighbor's lawn and into the SoCalGas' gas meter. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order (GO) 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 1

Property Damage: \$43,019.00

Utility Facilities involved:

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 0.5 (inches), MAOP = 60 (psi), Operating Pressure = 55 (psi)

Witnesses:

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1	Mahmoud Intably	CPUC Investigator	N/A
1	LACFD - 11	Unit 11	(661) 940-6791
1	LAC Sheriff Department	Lancaster	(661) 948-8466
2	██████████	SoCalGas - PSC	██████████
3	██████████	SoCalGas - PSC	██████████
4	██████████	Neighbor	██████████
5	██████████	Propert Owner	██████████
6	██████████	Driver of the Chevy Corvette	██████████
7	Curtis Huff	PHMSA	(405) 423-0571

Evidence:

	<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	SoCalGas	CPUC 420 Initial Report 5/5/2020
2	SED	Data request dated 5/4/2020
3	SoCalGas	Preset data request

Observations and Findings:

On May 3, 2020, at approximately 0115 hours, ██████████, a next-door neighbor, drove his Chevy Corvette over his neighbor's front lawn and into the neighbor's garage damaging the southeast wall of the garage. The house's electrical panel and the gas meter were located on the southeast wall of the garage; three feet apart. The impact caused damage to the garage, the electrical panel, the gas meter and an unintentional release of gas into the atmosphere. The escaped gas ignited and started a small fire on the southeast wall of the garage. Neighbors were awakened by the impact, rushed to the scene, pulled Mr. ██████████ out of the vehicle, called 911, and used fire extinguishers to put out the fire. There was one reported injury; the driver, Mr. ██████████, who received head injuries and was transported to the local hospital for treatment of his injuries.

At approximately 0323 hours, SoCalGas' crews arrived on the scene, secured the

site, turned off the stopcock valve at the gas meter and install a locking device on the gas service valve. The crews excavated the gas service line, then squeezed off and capped the service line. The garage sustained structural damage and was red tagged by the city of Lancaster. SoCalGas' crews performed a post-incident leak survey and found no leak indication. The incident was reported to the DOT/CPUC due to gas release and damage exceeding \$50,000.

SoCalGas' gas meter sustained heavy damage resulting in gas leak at the stopcock valve. The gas meter was located in an area away from anticipated vehicular damage. The PE gas main was installed in 2003 along with the PE service line with MAOP of 60 psig and MOP of 55 psig. The estimated cost to repair the SoCalGas facilities was estimated to be in the amount of \$3,019.

SoCalGas' crews followed SoCalGas' Gas Standards to squeeze off the service line, perform service abandonment, and remove the gas meter.

SED reviewed the SoCalGas crews' OQ records for the tasks performed including the excavation, the "squeeze off" of the PE service line, and the abandonment of the PE gas service line. The OQ records found to be in compliance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192, Subpart N-Qualification of Pipeline Personnel.

On May 13, 2020, SED interviewed ██████████ over the telephone. Mr. ██████████ stated that he stayed at the hospital May 8 and 9, 2020 and was treated for a concussion, head trauma, and head injuries and was released and readmitted for two days and one night for further examination. Currently, he is recovering and doing better. His 2010 Chevy Corvette was a total loss.

On May 14, 2020, contacted ██████████ (owner of the damaged house) by phone. Ms. ██████████ stated that the construction is progressing well, and it may take up to six months to complete the repairs to her house. At this time, she was staying at a hotel paid by her insurance, Mutual Liberty, until the restoration work completed (the house has no gas or electricity).

On June 1, 2020, SoCalGas sent an email to both PHMSA and SED requesting the incident be rescinded because the incident did not meet Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 191 reporting requirements. SoCalGas' investigation concluded that the cause of the fire was due to a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed, the driver's injuries were due to the collision coupled with the fluids from the vehicle making contact with the vehicle's hot engine.

On June 1, 2020, SED received a copy of the County of Los Angeles- Sheriff's Department incident investigation report. According to the report, Mr. ██████████ was charged with the 23152(a) CVC/DUI Alcohol and the property damage was estimated to be in the amount of \$40,000.

The SED investigation found that Mr. [REDACTED] drove over his neighbor's front lawn and into the SoCalGas' gas meter. The gas meter was located in an area away from anticipated vehicular damage. Therefore, SED did not find any GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of CFR, Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.

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

<i>General Order</i>	<i>GO Rule</i>
1 GO112F	Title 49 CFR, Part 192.353 Meter location
2 GO112F	Title 49 CFR, Part 192.723 Leakage Surveys
3 GO112F	Title 49 CFR, Part 192.727 Abandonment or de

Conclusion:

The SED investigation found that Mr. [REDACTED] drove over his neighbor's front lawn and into the SoCalGas' gas meter. The gas meter was located in an area away from anticipated vehicular damage. Therefore, SED did not find any GO 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of CFR, Part 192 violations by SoCalGas.