



## Safety Snapshot # 217

The Global Safety Snapshot is a weekly notice of real examples common to our industry, aimed at better awareness and improved attitudes. It is a way to strengthen another link in our chain of communication.



### Lesson # 217 – A Near Miss needs to be reported

A near-miss incident needs to be reported immediately to the Bovis Project Team. We will assess the situation and determine what follow-up is necessary. In some cases a lesson may be learned or a hazard revealed which needs to be shared with others to prevent future incidents. Your near-miss may be the basis for next week's safety snapshot!

Here is an example of a near miss that could have been a serious incident. Dig Alert was called and marked the underground utilities. A worker used a post-hole digger to dig a shallow hole several feet from the marked-out utilities. Unfortunately, the existing plastic gas line was not located where marked, and was buried only about 18" inches below grade. The worker struck the gas line and notified his supervisor; the job was stopped and the gas company quickly responded and repaired the leaking line. **This near-miss reminds us that before you ever dig at a facility, it is a critical to call Dig Alert to locate underground utility lines, and observe markout zones and use hand digging methods in them.** Striking a utility with a piece of equipment can be a BIG problem! If you are unsure of the exact location of utilities and have to work in close proximity, shut them off to be safe.

By reporting this near-miss, the contractor helps raise our awareness and possibly prevents a utility strike in the future. **Report your near-miss to keep people safe!**

[For comments or future Snapshot ideas please contact Mitch Patalano at:](#)

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