



## Pipeline Safety Division Investigation Report

### Investigation regarding: Christopher Brown

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3960

Investigator: Howard Friend

Report Date: 3/7/13

Damage Date: 9/11/2012

Damage Address: 1230 Maple Row

City: Elkhart

County: Elkhart

### The Parties

Excavator: **Christopher Brown**

Contact:

Address: 1230 Maple Row, Elkhart, In, 46514

Telephone:

Facility Owner: NIPSCO

Contact: Kit Earle

Address: 150 W Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Pipeline Facility

Facility Type: Natural Gas

Facility Function: Service/Drop

**Investigation regarding: Christopher Brown**

UPPAC Database Record ID: 3960

**Damage Impact**

Product release: Yes

Ignition: No

Service Interruption: Yes

Number of Customers Affected: 1

Injuries: 0

Fatalities: 0

Repair Cost (if known): \$

**Excavator Activities/Cause of damage information:**

Excavator request locates: No    Indiana 811 ticket Number:

Type of Equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

**Synopsis:** A natural gas service was damaged during excavation for a fence post.

**Findings:** Reported by Steve Noffsinger; excavator's response to initial notice was received on 12/12/2012. The excavator/homeowner failed to provide notice of excavation.

**Conclusion:** There was a failure to provide notice of excavation.

**Violation: IC 8-1-26-16(g): Failure to provide notice of excavation.**



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Sep 29, 2012

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### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Steve Noffsinger

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 E 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN, 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): (219)962-0422

Fax number (*area code*): (219)962-0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

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### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Minnie Brown

Business address (*number and street*): 1230 Maple Row

City, State, and ZIP code: Elkhart, IN, 46514

Telephone number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

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**Date and Location of Damage**

Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Sep 11, 2012

County: Elkhart

City: Elkhart

Street address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
1230 Maple Row

Nearest intersection: Oak St

Right of way where damage occurred: Private - Land Owner

Was there a release of product? Yes

If yes, was there an ignition of product? No

Were evacuations necessary as a result of release? No

If yes, how many evacuated? 0

Was there a customer service interruption? Yes

If yes, how many affected? 1

Time to restore service (*in hours*): 1

Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0

Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0

Property damage, Estimate \$

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**Affected Facility Information**

What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural Gas

What was the affected facility? Service/Drop

What was the depth of the facility, in inches? 18

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**

Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? No

Enter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known:

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: No locates \_\_\_\_\_

Was site marked by "White Lining"? No

Were special instructions part of the locate request? No

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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### **Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --No notification made to the one-call center

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### **Additional Comments**

Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1209113501



150 West Market Street, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

January 30, 2013

*Via Electronic Transmission – PipelineDamageCase@urc.in.gov*

Pipeline Safety Division – Case No. 3960  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Investigation Request for Information; Pipeline Division Case No. 3960

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find Northern Indiana Public Service Company's ("NIPSCO") written information, and supporting documentation, relating to the following event:

Date of Event: 9/11/2012

Event Location: 1230 Maple Row

Facility Owner: Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Excavator: Minnie Brown

Other Party: N/A

Pipeline Division Case No. 3960

NIPSCO has reviewed its recovery and damage prevention files for this matter and has provided answers, when known, to the list of questions set forth in the Information Request. To the extent available, NIPSCO is also providing a copy of the Damage Information Report – Pipeline Safety Division previously submitted by NIPSCO to IURC Pipeline Safety as well as additional documentation relating to this Event Location.

Upon completion of the investigation, NIPSCO requests that it be provided with a copy of the Pipeline Division's Investigation Report with findings that will be forwarded to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee. If there are any additional questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Christopher C. (Kit) Earle  
NiSource Corporate Services - Legal  
Phone: 317-684-4904  
Fax: 317-684-4918  
Email: [cearle@nisource.com](mailto:cearle@nisource.com)

<b>IURC INFORMATION REQUEST</b>	
<b>Pipeline Safety Division Case No. 3960</b>	
Date of Event	9/11/2012
Event Location	1230 Maple Row
Event City	Elkhart
Facility Owner	Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Excavator	Minnie Brown
Date of IURC Information Request	12/5/2012
<b>THE PARTIES</b>	
<b>EXCAVATOR:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Minnie Brown
TITLE (IF ANY)	
ADDRESS	1230 Maple Row
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Elkhart, IN 46514
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>FACILITY INFORMATION - OWNER/OPERATOR OF UTILITY LINE:</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	LUKE SELKING
TITLE	
ADDRESS	1501 HALE AVENUE
CITY/STATE/ZIP	FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	260/439-1290
SECONDARY TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	LSELKING@NISOURCE.COM
<b>LOCATOR SERVICE INFORMATION</b>	
BUSINESS NAME	USIC
RESPONSIBLE PARTY PERSONAL NAME	Morgan Thompson
TITLE (IF ANY)	Claims Coordinator
ADDRESS	9045 N. River Rd. Suite 300
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	Indianapolis, IN 46240
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	1-317-538-7301
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>OTHER (WITNESS, POLICE, FIRE, OTHER) INFORMATION</b>	
PERSONAL CONTACT	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	
TITLE (IF ANY)	

ADDRESS	
CITY/ STATE/ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE	
CELL PHONE TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
<b>UTILITY LINE IMPACT</b>	
<b>LOCATION OF DAMAGE</b>	
ADDRESS	1230 Maple Row
CITY/STATE/ZIP	South Bend, IN, 46514
NEAREST INTERSECTION	
<b>PRODUCT TYPE (Select One)</b>	
NATURAL GAS	X
LIQUID PIPELINE	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
<b>FACILITY TYPE (Select One)</b>	
DISTRIBUTION	
GATHERING	
SERVICE/DROP	X
TRANSMISSION	
UNKNOWN/OTHER	
SIZE (DIAMETER/ETC.)	5/8"
PRESSURE (PSIG/INCHES)	35
INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE (YES/NO)	Y
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AFFECTED	1
EVACUATION (YES/NO)	N
IF YES, HOW MANY EVACUATED	
REPAIR COST (IF KNOWN) (\$)	
<b>CAUSE OF DAMAGE INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT (Select One)</b>	
Auger	
Backhoe/Trackhoe	
Boring/Drilling	
Directional Drilling	
Explosives	
Farm Equipment	
Grader/Scraper	
Hand Tools	X
Milling Equipment	
Probing Device	

Trancher	
Vacuum Equipment	
Unknown/Other	
<b>TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED (Select One)</b>	
Agriculture	
Cable TV	
Curb/Sidewalk	
Bldg. Construction	
Bldg. Demolition	
Drainage	
Driveway	
Electric	
Engineering/Surveying	
Fencing	X
Grading	
Irrigation	
Landscaping	
Liquid Pipeline	
Milling	
Natural Gas	
Pole	
Public Transit Authority	
Railroad Maintenance	
Road Work	
Sewer (Sanitary/Storm)	
Site Development	
Steam	
Storm Drain/Culvert	
Street Light	
Telecommunications	
Traffic Signal	
Traffic Sign	
Water	
Waterway Improvement	
Unknown/Other	
RELEASE OF PRODUCT (YES/NO)	Y
IGNITION AND/OR FIRE (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR NOTIFY 811 (YES/NO)	N
<b>LOCATE INFORMATION:</b>	
EXCAVATOR REQUEST LOCATE (YES/NO)	N

INDIANA 811 LOCATE TICKET NUMBER	N/A
LOCATE MARKS VISIBLE (YES/NO)	N
LOCATE MARKS CORRECT (YES/NO)	N
EXCAVATOR "WHITE LINED" (YES/NO)	N
MAPS USED TO MARK FACILITIES (YES/NO)	N
OPERATOR EMPLOYEES ON-SITE DURING EXCAVATION (YES/NO)	N
<b>INCIDENT IMPACT INFORMATION</b>	
NUMBER OF OUTPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF INPATIENT TREATED	0
NUMBER OF FATALITIES	0
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
AMBULANCE RESPONSE (YES/NO)	N
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS</b>	
NO NOTIFICATION TO ONE CALL CENTER	



**NAMES OF UTILITY REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
no locate

**NAMES OF EXCAVATOR'S REPRESENTATIVES CONTACTED OR ON SITE AND STATEMENT:**  
na

**LIST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON SITE:**  
na

**WERE ANY MARKINGS VISIBLE ON THE DAMAGE SITE UPON ARRIVAL?** No

**WERE ANY OTHER INDICATORS OF FACILITY PRESENT IN THE AREA?** Yes

**WAS THE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE OF MARKS?** No

**EXTENT OF FACILITY DAMAGE** cut pl service

**REPLACEMENT FOOTAGE ?**

**WAS CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED? IF YES, WHO?** No

**WHAT CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WAS USED?**

**IS THE FACILITY SHOWN ON THE UTILITY RECORDS?** No

**IF YES, PLEASE LIST RECORD #(S)**

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
FACILITY DAMAGE REPORT

\*\* COMPLETE FORM FOR ALL DAMAGES TO NIPSCO FACILITIES \*\*

REPORTING OPERATING AREA South Bend MAXIMO WO #
OPERATING AREA CONTACT T. Armstrong / G. Kirby JOB ORDER # 54056
TRACKING NUMBER DIB 2012 0911 / 008 LOCATE REF #
Locate Performed By:

DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT 9-11 2012, 1906hrs DATE OF REPORT 9-11-12
PLACE OF DAMAGE (INCLUDE CITY) 1230 Maple Row South Bend

DAMAGE WAS TO:
ELECTRIC - POLE / TRANSFORMER: # SIZE YEAR INSTALLED BROKEN YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER (DESCRIBE)

GAS: SERVICE MAIN ( ) SIZE 5/8" MATERIAL: PLASTIC (X) STEEL ( ) METER ( ) REG STATION ( ) STUB ( )
OTHER (DESCRIBE)

DEPTH OF FACILITY (inches) 18" PRESSURE (PSI) 35 Lbs.

RELEASE OF GAS: YES (X) NO ( ) IGNITION OF GAS: YES ( ) NO (X) EVACUATION REQUIRED: YES ( ) # NO (X)

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE: YES (X) NO ( ) NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS LOST: 1

DURATION OF INTERRUPTION: TIME REPORTED 1 hrs TIME SHUT OFF 1935hrs TIME RESTORED 2030

DIAMETER/MEASUREMENT OF HOLE IN GAS FACILITY: 5/8"

LOCATE MARKS ON SITE: YES ( ) DISTANCE BETWEEN FACILITY AND LOCATE MARKS NO (X)
HOW LOCATED: PAINT ( ) FLAGS ( ) BOTH ( ) WHITE LINED ( )

PARTY THAT CAUSED DAMAGES (NAME) Const. Building Fence

ADDRESS OF PARTY (INCLUDE CITY)

WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK SITE AT TIME OF DAMAGE

WITNESS NAME AND ADDRESS

WITNESS REMARKS

AGENCIES NOTIFIED / ONSITE: POLICE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #
FIRE ( ) AGENCY REPORT #

OTHER ( ) Any Injuries? ( ) YES # (X) NO

PHOTOS TAKEN: YES ( ) NO (X) TAKEN BY: (ATTACH PHOTOS TO REPORT)
MEDIA ON SITE YES ( ) NO (X)

- WORK IN PROGRESS WHEN FACILITY DAMAGED -- CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW
( ) AGRICULTURE/FARMING ( ) CABLE TV ( ) CURB/SIDEWALK ( ) TELECOMMUNICATIONS
( ) BLDG CONSTRUCTION ( ) DEMOLITION ( ) DRAINAGE ( ) WATER
( ) DRIVEWAY ( ) ELECTRIC ( ) SURVEYING ( ) DRAINS/CULVERTS
(X) FENCING ( ) GRADING ( ) IRRIGATION ( ) MOWING
( ) LANDSCAPING ( ) PIPELINE ( ) MILLING ( ) OTHER
( ) POLE/SIGN POST ( ) ROAD WORK ( ) SEWER

- TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED -- CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW
( ) AUGER (X) HAND TOOLS ( ) BACKHOE/TRACKHOE
( ) MILLING EQUIPMENT ( ) PROBING DEVICE ( ) BORING / DRILLING
( ) EXPLOSIVES ( ) TRENCHER ( ) FARM EQUIPMENT
( ) VACCUUM EQUIPMENT ( ) GRADER ( ) OTHER

- REASON DAMAGE OCCURRED-- CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICE BELOW
( ) AUTOMOTIVE ACCIDENT ( ) EXCAVATING BEFORE LOCATES DUE ( ) CARELESS MACHINE OPERATOR
(X) NO NOTIFICATION ( ) MARKS DISTURBED ( ) STUB ( ) OTHER

COMMENTS :

Did not have Locates Called For  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PERSON PREPARING REPORT

Rocky Rigsby  
\_\_\_\_\_

FIELD SUPERVISOR

Gary King  
\_\_\_\_\_

FIELD MANAGER

Rhaz  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ORIGINAL REPORT AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION IS TO BE SENT TO FACILITY DAMAGE RECOVERY
- COPY OF REPORT IS TO BE SENT TO DAMAGE PREVENTION

SKETCH: - Show position of all pertinent information

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| • DID EXCAVATION OCCUR BEFORE LOCATES WERE DUE  | YES | NO |
| • NO IN 811 LOCATE CALLED IN                    | YES | NO |
| • DAMAGE CAUSED FROM EXCAVATION WITHIN 24" ZONE | YES | NO |
| • EXPIRED LOCATE                                | YES | NO |
| • WAS WHITE LINING INDICATED ON LOCATE REQUEST  | YES | NO |

COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## DAMAGE INFORMATION REPORT – PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

State Form 54122 (R2 / 7-11)  
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Submitted to IURC-Pipeline Safety on: Sep 29, 2012

### Who is submitting this information?

Name of person providing this information: Steve Noffsinger

Business address (*number and street*): 3511 E 15th Ave

City, State, and ZIP code: Gary, IN, 46403

Telephone number (*area code*): (219)962-0422

Fax number (*area code*): (219)962-0404

E-mail address: cludwig@nisource.com

### Excavator Information, if known

Full name: Minnie Brown -- homeowner

Business address (*number and street*): 1230 Maple Row

City, State, and ZIP code: Elkhart, IN, 46514

Telephone number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number (*area code*): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Excavation or Demolition Information

Excavator type: Occupant

Excavation or demolition equipment: Hand Tools

Type of work performed: Fencing

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**Date and Location of Damage**Date of damage (*month, day, year*): Sep 11, 2012County: ElkhartCity: ElkhartStreet address (*number and street, city, state, and ZIP code*):  
1230 Maple Row, Elkhart, IN, 46514Nearest intersection: Oak StRight of way where damage occurred: Private - Land OwnerWas there a release of product? YesIf yes, was there an ignition of product? NoWere evacuations necessary as a result of release? NoIf yes, how many evacuated? 0Was there a customer service interruption? YesIf yes, how many affected? 1Time to restore service (*in hours*): 1Enter number of injuries, if applicable and known: 0Enter number of fatalities, if applicable and known: 0Property damage, Estimate \$ 

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**Affected Facility Information**What type of pipeline was damaged? Natural GasWhat was the affected facility? Service/DropWhat was the depth of the facility, in inches? 18

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**Notification, Locating, Marking**Did excavator request locates prior to commencing work? NoEnter Indiana 811 ticket number, if known:

Was the locate request completed within two working days? Unknown/Other

If locates were performed, were they done so by a contractor or pipeline employee? Unknown/Other

If a contractor locator, enter the company name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation? No

Were facilities marked correctly? Unknown/Other

Type of markings used: Other

If other, please specify: No locates \_\_\_\_\_

Was site marked by "White Lining"? No

Were special instructions part of the locate request? No

Were maps used to complete the locate request? Unknown/Other

Were pipeline company representatives on site during excavation? No

Did the excavator notify the operator in the event of this damage? Yes

Did the excavator notify Indiana 811 in the event of this damage? No

Did the excavator notify 911 in the event of a release of product? Unknown/Other

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**Description of Cause**

Select from the list the most accurate cause for the damage: --No notification made to the one-call center

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**Additional Comments**

Nipsco emergency repair ticket 1209113501

**From:** 1230MapleRow [1230maplerow@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2012 9:23 PM  
**To:** Boyd, William  
**Subject:** case no. 3960

Mr. Boyd i were trying to move a fend pole and i were about two feet down when i moved the pole up and down that is when i hit the gas line.

Christopher Brown  
1230  
Maple Row  
Elkhart ,  
Ind.46514