**“Earth Rockets”, gas pipes and luck.**

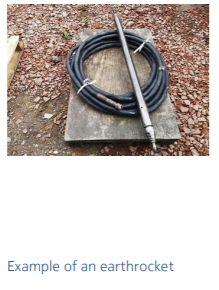
**10, 9, ……, 3, 2, 1 🡪 Ignition aborted.**

An earth rocket used for horizontal drilling was unintentionally deviated from the expected path, impacting an existing gas pipe. As a result of this, damage to the infrastructure took place.

We were only lucky that no fire or explosion happened when we punctured the buried gas pipe.

No one was injured, however, serious risk for Nokia, supplier teams and, as important as that, members of the public.





Fortunately, no one was injured, and damage was quickly identified and then, fixed. Avoiding further risks for people living in the area.

**What did we learn?**

* The risks associated with horizontal digging/drilling are not as well appreciated or communicated as well as other forms of trenching and excavation.
* Supervision is mandatory in ALL high-risk activities: The digging procedure, given the know presence of the gas pipe is considered high risk. There were two supervisors assigned to the work, however, neither of them was present on site at the time of the activity.
* Training requirements for those carrying out the works were not clearly defined and identified in the H&S Project plan.

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**verify the location of underground hazards such as gas pipes or electric cables prior to digging.**