

## Safety Flash

### Incident with Property Damage

**Incident:** An electrical contractor had hired a directional boring subcontractor to bore from the parking lot under trailers to the east. Before drilling, the directional boring subcontractor removed equipment from the trailer and discussed the main electrical and store location. The directional boring subcontractor struck a new 6-inch water line when pulling the conduit back through the bore.

#### **Possible contributing factors:**

- The directional boring subcontractor did not review the site utility drawing before beginning to bore.
- The electrical foreman was familiar with the ground distribution form and used it previously, but did not complete it for this operation because the activity had not been planned for that day.
- The line had to be bored rather than excavated because of the trailer location.
- The pre-task plan at the beginning of the day did not include the bore, which was not scheduled that day. The boring contractor had finished a previous job early and called just before lunch to see if he could come to the site at 1 p.m.
- The bore started in cement-stabilized soil, which did not allow the bore to rise to the planned elevation.

#### **Primary contributing factors:**

- The directional boring subcontractor did not review the site utility drawing before beginning to bore.
- The electrical foreman was familiar with the ground distribution form and used it previously, but did not complete it for this operation because the activity had not been planned for that day.

#### **Possible solutions:**

- Make sure subcontractors inform RLI of all excavation activities to ensure that the ground distribution form is completed.
- Ensure all subs know they are required to complete the ground distribution form and have RLI sign off on the form before work begins.
- Plan work so there is enough time to follow and improve project safety requirements.

#### **Action Items:**

- RLI reviewed the incident with all subcontractors.
- At project meetings, RLI will continue to discuss our requirement to properly complete, follow and obtain RLI approval on the ground distribution form for excavations over 6 inches.

#### **Keep improving**

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.