

Case Study: Ruptured High-Pressure Gas Main

Affected asset:

- High-pressure gas main (Jemena)

Incident:

- The NSW State Government had confirmed that workers for its metro rail project caused a gas leak in Martin Place on a Friday night leading to the evacuation and lockdown of part of Sydney's CBD on Saturday.
- The incident was caused by an excavator striking a steel high-pressure gas main.
- Emergency services continued working to contain the leak late into Saturday night, and trains were skipping the busy Martin Place station due to the exposure of gas.
- NSW Fire Service evacuated the area because of "dangerous gas levels"; gas mixed with a certain ratio of the air can become an explosive atmosphere, and any ignition, which can cause a spark, would have caused a fire or explosion.
- The incident caused parts of Sydney's CBD to be locked down, with residents asked to steer clear of the exclusion zone for safety reasons.



Images credit: ABC News