

Safety & Health Alert No. 07 / 2017

Protection of Existing Government Water Mains – Water Supplies Department

Date : 16 January 2017

Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

This serves to draw your attention to the following advice by Water Supplies Department (WSD):

From time to time, there will be road opening works or construction works near existing government water mains. There are occasions that the construction works carried out in vicinity of water mains by other government departments or organisations have given rise to damages of water mains, resulting in interruption to water supply and disruption to traffic. To obviate the disturbance to the daily life of the public caused by damages to water mains, WSD would like to solicit your assistance in reminding your colleagues, consultants and subcontractors of the importance in protecting existing water mains when carrying out construction works.

Detailed guidelines with contact telephone numbers can be found in WSD publications entitled “Guidelines for Excavation near Water Mains” and “How to Prevent Damage to Water Mains”, which could be downloaded from WSD web site at the following URL:

<https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/publications-and-statistics/guidelines-reports-drawings-specifications/index.html>

In brief, please remind your colleagues, consultants and subcontractors to obtain from WSD the mains record plans before construction works to check if existing water mains are affected; to make use of pipe detectors and/or hand-dug trial holes to ascertain the presence and the positions of existing water mains; to execute the work safely and backfill the pipe trenches properly; to take all necessary precautionary measures and avoid malpractice; to contact WSD regional staff for assistance and inspection as appropriate, etc.