Case study 673

Burst water main at Piccadilly Circus prompts emergency response from Sykes Pumps

When a well-known water contractor required an urgent pumping solution following a problem in London's West End, a local engineer was sent to site immediately. A key water main had burst at Piccadilly Circus during the middle of the night and there were tangible concerns that the significant outflow of water could interfere with the area's electricity supply. Additionally, the location of the incident meant that an instant reaction would be essential in order to prevent disruption at the Underground station.

With key workers relying on reduced transport services to get around the city at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was inconceivable that a prominent station could be closed as a result of a utilities issue. With time quickly running out, an emergency overpumping solution was needed to bypass the damaged section of pipework and divert any nuisance water away.

It was decided that deploying a road towable Rapid Response pump would be the best course of action in the first instance, with a view to changing the equipment later if necessary. The speed and professionalism of the contractor following the burst mains was critical and helped avoid a major disturbance within the area.

As such, Piccadilly Circus – famous across the globe for its eye-catching illuminations and billboards – kept its lights on despite the potential for an unprecedented blackout! The Underground station also remained completely unaffected, meaning the outcome desired at the outset was achieved against all the odds.

Weight (kg): 626kg with fuel / 590kg without fuel
Dimension: 2775 x 1650 x 1500 (LxWxH)
Noise level: @1m= 81 dBA / @7m= 72 dBA
Performance: Max Head: 24m, Max Flow: 36 l/sec,
Max Solids: 40mm
Fuel Tank capacity: 35 litres
Fuel Consumption: 1.99 litres/hour
Pipe Connections: Suction: 4" table D / Discharge: 4" table D / Bauer couplings 4" or 3" options
Energy Efficient duty Point: 1.4 litres/hour