RODRADAR

CASE STUDY · CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

NEWARK GROUND STOP · SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

ONE FIBER STRIKE. MAJOR AIRPORTS GROUNDED.

A construction crew dug about 10 feet from the utility marks and severed a fiber line serving air traffic control. The Northeast's busiest airspace stopped. Real-time detection at the bucket would have stopped the strike instead.

~8 hrs
No arrivals at Newark, 9:40 AM to 5:20 PM

5
Airports under ground stop: EWR, PHL, TEB, JFK, LGA

4,833
U.S. flight delays and 781 cancellations by 4 PM

~10 ft
Between the utility marks and where the line really was

WHAT HAPPENED

9:45 AM Excavation crew cuts a Verizon fiber line near New Brunswick, NJ.

~10 AM Air traffic control link fails. FAA grounds EWR, PHL and TEB.

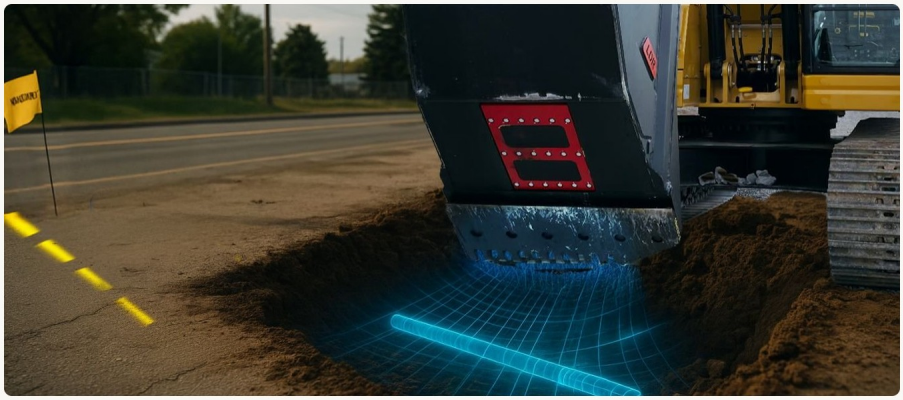
1:00 PM Ground stop spreads to JFK and LGA.

~6 PM All clear. Delays run overnight.

WHY IT HAPPENED

The marks said here. The fiber was there.

Paint and records show where a utility should be. Nothing showed the operator where it actually was.



WITH LDR EXCAVATE™, THE BUCKET SEES IT FIRST

THE SOLUTION

Sees what the marks miss

Ground-penetrating radar built into the bucket scans the soil on every pass, wherever the bucket actually is, independent of paint, maps or records.

Finds fiber, not just metal

Detects metallic and non-metallic utilities, including fiber conduit that electromagnetic locators can miss without a tracer wire.

Prevents utility strikes in real time

Live in-cab alerts warn the operator of what lies beneath the bucket before the teeth make contact. Every detection is logged, so the next crew

SEE IT ON YOUR OWN JOB SITE Schedule an LDR Excavate™ pilot with RodRadar. Schedule a pilot →

Paint shows where it should be. LDR shows where it is.

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Sources: NBC News, Newsweek, Fox Business, MiGFlug, Sept 21 to 22, 2026. Incident figures as reported.