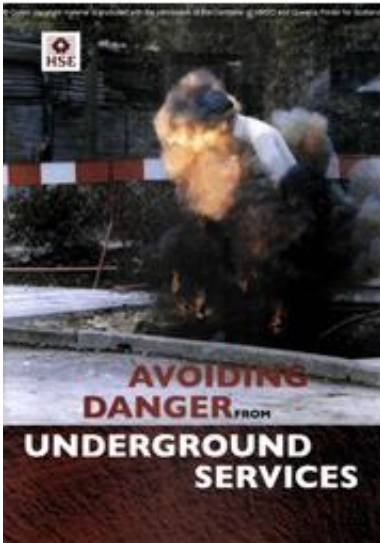




Electric cable strike

High potential incident on wastewater network project



A framework contractor drove a steel pin into an electric cable when marking out a new kerb line. It is apparent that the cable was very shallow and that copies of utility prints were not available on site.

The contractor suffered burns and nerve damage to his hands, his colleague got flying particles in his eye.

The kerbs were being installed as one of the last activities on the project which has otherwise been undertaken safely.

We have also had a low voltage underground cable strike on a capital project where the wrong utility plans were on site and the team dug deeper than planned.

Next steps:

We cannot be complacent – cable strikes kill! Remember to ‘PACE’ before breaking ground:

P - Plan the work before starting – can excavations or utilities be avoided? Use [Linesearch](#) to check for Major Accident Hazard Pipelines
A - Ask for information on buried service locations – have up to date (less than 3 months old), good quality, colour, legible prints on site.

C - Confirm the exact location of buried services – think cable detection tools, ground penetrating radar surveys, and trial holes. Look out for marker posts and evidence of trench scars nearby.

E - Excavate using safe digging practices – competent people, permits to break ground, hand digging, vacuum excavation and scan as you go.

Resources for more information:

- [UU Procedure](#)
- [HSE Avoiding Danger from Underground Services HSG 47](#)
- [Best Practice in Utility Strike Avoidance, produced by the Utility Strike Avoidance Group](#)

Issued to: Programme Services, Engineering, Wastewater Services, Water Services, Renewable Energy

Issued by: Claire Hyde, Lead H&S Business Partner

Date: 11/08/16

Mobile: Mobex 80760, mobile 07920 210760

Email the Health & Safety mailbox on Outlook for any additional information or guidance.

Spotted a hazard or near miss? Need to report a security incident or accident? DON'T WALK BY! Call AIRline 01925 (2) 37111

