

Dig Safely

Damage to underground cables can cause
Fatal or Severe Injury

- Damage to electricity cables can cause a flash leading to severe burns or even death.
- Underground Services can be found in roads, footpaths & on sites.
- Always assume they are present .
- Treat all services as live, despite their physical appearance/condition.
- Accidents have happened because people have mistaken one service for another.
- **CHECK BEFORE YOU ACT**



Before Starting Work

- Make sure you have plans of the underground cables for the area of your work.
- Remember, Individual property services from the main to a building or street light may not be shown .
- Always use a cable locator to trace electricity cables both prior to and during your works.
- Mark the position of cables using paint or other waterproof marking on the ground.
- Hand dig trial holes (as many as necessary) to accurately locate the position of services in the area of your work.

When You Start Work

- Always try to hand dig near buried services with insulated spades & shovels rather than picks or forks.
- Check that any cable which is embedded in concrete and has to be broken out has been made dead BEFORE work starts.
- Keep an eye open for further signs of services as work continues as the cables may be layered on top of each other.
- Repeat checks with cable locators as excavations progress.
- Backfill around services with a fine soil or sand material .
- DO NOT use hard core, concrete or bricks around the cable.
- Report ALL cable damage IMMEDIATELY.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE REPAIRS YOURSELF.

When You Start Work

- DO NOT use power tools within 500mm of the known position of an electricity cable.
- DO NOT use cables as a step or handhold when getting in/out of an excavation.
- DO NOT handle or attempt to alter the position of an exposed service.
- When installing new services such as gas, water or telecom - check on the correct separation with your supervisor.
- DO NOT build existing cables into a manhole, telecom chamber walls or encase them in concrete.
- Cable depths can and do change due to circumstances beyond our control - NEVER assume depth without hand digging.
- Also look out for disturbed ground, cellars or bridges.

Finally

If you adhere to the above precautions your own safety will be greatly increased and in turn will help reduce the risk of damage to cables.