

# 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.