

**FIRST ALERT****Health & Safety****Northpower**

Subcontractor hit de-energised 11kV cable with digger (FA051)

Incident	Description		
Event Date: 3/08/2022	Time: 08:32 AM	Location: Atiamuri	
Investigation Status:	On-going		NP Reference: INV10354 Maximo:145924

What happened?

A landscaping subcontractor was brought in by the lead contractor to spread and level out the ground surrounding the area outside the new reactor site with the bulldozer.

When work was about to start the operator inspected the bulldozer and found a defect. He made a decision to use the excavator that was on site to complete the works. The incident occurred when the operator made the decision to dig a hole to bury rocks instead of stockpiling them for removal later in the day as per the requirement/process. Unaware there was an 11kV underground cable he dug the hole and struck the de-energised 11kV cable.

What could have happened?

Actual potential outcome was no harm to the operator because the cable was de-energised. However, the damage to the cable was significant, with damage to the outer 5 layers of the cable, down to the copper tape screen. Extensive repair work was needed to get the cable back in service.



Actions Required / Messages:

1. Do not, under any circumstances dig holes to bury debris. All debris must be removed from site
2. The operative on site had not been supplied with cable records
3. Any ground disturbance requires a permit to dig.
4. For any change on site whether it be personnel or scope the risk assessment must be updated and communicated

Supporting References:	SMEI 2.1204 Work in Excavations (e) Care shall be taken to avoid damage to underground services during any excavation / land disturbance. i. use of plans and marking out ii use of cable and pipe location devices
For more information:	Janine Wagstaff – Northpower HSQE Advisor Central

