



## Good Practice - Preventive Actions

Two scenarios where preventive action was taken by SPEN staff were highlighted on recent Safety Calls.

A jointing team based in SPM attended a site to complete a new connection where a third party sub-contractor was carrying out the excavation work. The work location was on a footpath adjacent to a busy main road with 2 schools nearby. The jointing team identified the site set-up didn't meet the required standards including insufficient barriers and the site work was potentially causing pedestrians to walk into the main carriageway. When the sub-contractor was requested they improve the site, install sufficient barriers including a protected temporary walkway, they were unable to do so as they did not possess the required equipment. After giving advice of what was required, SPEN staff took the correct action to leave the work area and the Project Co-Ordinator informed the local Highways Authority of the poor state of the site.

In a separate scenario in SPT, during preparation for piling works in proximity to an existing 132kV cable, a contractor was excavating various points ahead of installing guidance sleeves. The accepted Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS) stated this would be by means of hand digging however they were found to have commenced the activity by means of an excavator. The works were immediately stood down.

In both instances, SPEN teams acted correctly to prevent putting themselves & others into potentially hazardous situations and such preventive actions should be encouraged. There is often the added benefit of preventing damage to our network assets, protecting the service to our customers.



*Encouraging the required standards - streetworks*



*Requirement to hand-dig trial holes in advance of piling works*

## Recommendations and action points

- Site or task specific risk assessments shall be conducted, recorded and sufficiently developed prior to any works commencing with all significant hazards identified.
- Hazards shall be controlled as per completed Risk Assessments, Method Statements or standard documented Procedure(s) or equivalent.
- If a situation looks unsafe or feels unsafe, it probably is. Stop, Look, Assess, Manage (SLAM) and where necessary seek advice from your manager.
- Encourage, promote and share preventive actions.