



# SAFETY, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL & QUALITY ALERT

**BUUK**  
infrastructure

**TITLE: LOW VOLTAGE CABLE FLASHOVER**

**BK-HAS-SA-0188-Vn1.00**

## **The Incident:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 an electrical discharge occurred when an LV mains cable was struck by a colleague whilst installing house services on a construction site.

## **What happened?**

The incident occurred when our colleague was cutting into what they thought was a 38mm Alkathene service cable duct using a reciprocating saw. In cutting into the cable, the saw blade cut through the neutral conductor and one or more phases causing it to flashover.

There was an audible bang at the point of damage, an electrical arc flash (flashover) and smoke from the discharged energy. Fortunately, our colleague was not injured.

## **What was the outcome?**

At this point the team ceased work, cleared the immediate area, and reported the incident.

## **Key messages:**

- ✓ ***Always undertake your Point of Work Risk Assessment prior to starting work***
- ✓ ***Always follow the approved Safe Systems of Work for Opening Ducts***
- ✓ ***HS(G)47 Avoiding Danger from Underground Services must be followed at all times including referring to plans and drawings***
- ✓ ***Use a Cable Avoidance Tool to scan the length of the duct before opening up or cutting in to the duct***
- ✓ ***Only use approved insulated tools when opening windows or cutting ducts***
- ✓ ***Wear approved PPE as stated in the Safe Systems of Work for Opening Ducts***
- ✓ ***If in doubt, STOP WORK and consult with your Line Manager***
- ✓ ***All electricity network damage MUST be reported immediately to Electricity Control on 01359 243270***



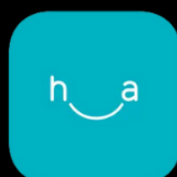
## **Further reading:**

[LV Jointing Guidance GE-CIC-ES-0003-Vn3.00.pdf](#)

[Opening Twin Wall Rigiducts BK-TGI-MS-0162-Vn2.00.pdf](#)

[Opening Plastic Ducts for Electricity Service Disconnections GE-TGI-MS-0196-Vn2.00.pdf](#)

Employee Assistance Programme is available to all BUUK employees free of charge, 365 days a year.



[www.healthassuredeap.co.uk](http://www.healthassuredeap.co.uk)  
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