

# SAFETY! ALERT!

24 August 2018



## REMINDER: PERMIT TO DIG INCLUDES BACKFILLING

### WHAT HAPPENED?

- This alert **reinforces the requirements** specifically when **backfilling exposed services** and for safe practices for ground disturbance work.
- This is the result of an incident involving a damaged 33kV cable during backfilling work.



### LEARNINGS

- All ground disturbances within a Transpower substation's restricted or controlled areas require a Permit to Dig, issued by that station's Service Provider.
- **Ground disturbance is any activity breaking ground and includes any backfilling operations.** When backfilling, machinery must not cross the area, until the ground has been compacted to design specifications and is suitable for the weight of the machine.
- **A standover** must be in place whenever ground disturbance works are taking place within 2 horizontal metres of underground services. Standover duties must be carried out by a Transpower Service Provider who is competent to undertake the duties of Standard Maintenance Procedure SMP 06.19.002  
Additional Clarification:-
- **Machine augers are not classed** as a safe digging technique and cannot be used within 2m of any known services. If used, a Permit to Dig is required and all service locations have to be identified.

Safety around underground services relies on effective identification of services, positive location by hand digging and undertaking the work using safe digging practises.

Refer to: TP.SS 06.19 SA2 Permit to Dig requirements; SMPs 06.19.001/002/003

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