




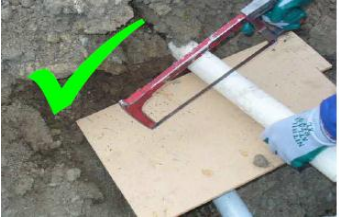
Lessons Learnt – LL057

11kV Cable Cut while using Sabre Saw

This Alert is applicable to:

Fibre		Distribution		Transmission		Wider Business	X
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Date of issue: 02/11/2015

Incident	Description
<i>Date incident happened</i>	8 October 2015
<i>Where it happened</i>	Palm Springs Subdivision, Papamoa, Bay of Plenty
<i>What happened</i> 	Northpower (NP) crew member was cutting back a previously installed PVC duct getting it ready to install a new 11kV cable. A hacksaw and crowbar had been used to partially cut the duct when it was decided to finish the task using a Sabre saw. As the crew member was cutting the last section of the duct the ground around it exploded. It was later identified that he had also cut into a live 11kV cable that was directly below the duct being cut.
<i>Why it happened</i> 	The B4U Dig plans onsite only indicated that one 11kV cable was in the work vicinity. Once it was located the crew was not aware that another had been installed directly under the empty ducts. As the duct had not been fully exposed nor any required protection applied before the cutting commenced, the other 11kV cable was not noticed and was struck.
<i>The important things you should remember about this</i>	Existing service plans may not be up to date. You must excavate a clear work area around any duct or cable to facilitate easy access to complete any cutting required.
<i>What you must do in future</i>	Implement safe digging practices and follow the requirements of any safe work practices developed to cover the types of work you are doing.
SM-EI Reference Risk Register ID Northpower Safe Work Practice	SM-EI 2.1204 Work in excavations Register no.63 – Underground cables (and other services) being struck SWP0024 “Cut into a Cable Duct”
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