



Safety Advice 20-2014- (Mar) (NZ) *(Transmission)*

The following First Alert courtesy of Transpower shares safety-critical advice concerning excavation in the vicinity of HV electric cables; in this instance underground service location had not been done. The EEA “Guide for ESI Use of Mobile Plant” published January 2014 includes guidance on excavation activity for planners and for contractors, particularly in the sections on electrical hazards, safe practices, and specifically in section 13.3 “work involving excavation”. The full advice follows below.

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FIRST ALERT

Date 19/03/14

STK-UTK A and B Saxtons Field Re-alignment

EVENT

When excavating for the installation of a deadman anchor the excavator came into contact with danger tape approximately 400-500mm below ground level. The danger tape indicated the presence of 33kV cables.



IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Actions taken. Crew stopped work and notified the Project Supervisor. The Project Manager then notified the local ESA authority that came out to site and confirmed that there were two 33kV underground cables and one fibre optic cable in the immediate vicinity.
- Cause: An underground services location for this site had not been undertaken prior to work commencement.
- Learning's: A permission to dig permit system is to be implemented to ensure underground services have been checked in the affected work area. An interim internal excavation approval process has been implemented with all relevant documentation, including (Before U Dig), sighted by senior management before an internal excavation permit will be issued to the work crew as a temporary measure.