

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Employees and Contract Partners)

SHE COMMUNICATION

Watch Out, There's Cables About!

In recent months we've had an increase in the number of reported incidents where underground utilities have been damaged during our works. The incidents have not been confined to one service provider and the damages have included electricity, gas, water, fibre-optic and telecommunications assets. Notwithstanding the disruption, cost and inconvenience associated with damaging underground assets from any utility, there is the potential for life changing or life threatening injuries and extra caution is needed when excavating around them.

What action is required?

1. Make sure you have all the relevant utility drawings for the area where you intend to work. Check the ground using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to identify the location of buried assets.
2. Take the time to dig trial holes to positively determine the location and depth of any buried assets in the work area. Monitor the ground conditions as you go to see if any marker tapes or protective tiles are evident and think about what to do if you uncover them.
3. Be extra vigilant when working close to utilities and carefully hand dig to minimise the risk of damage.
4. Ensure everybody in the work party understands the safety rules and job specific hazards identified in the Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS) and/or the Point of Work Risk Assessment (POWRA/stage 2)



At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – if it's not safe, we don't do it.

Communication by (✓)	Managers	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	
Issued by: Adam Sivell, Occupational Safety Manger, SSEN					Date of issue: 09/10/2019			