

Safety Bulletin No. 01/2016

AVOIDING DANGER FROM UNDERGROUND SERVICES – OBTAINING, ISSUING AND CHECKING SERVICE RECORDS FOR PLANNED WORK INCLUDING FOLLOW-ON FAULT WORK

Issue date	24 February 2016
Issued by	Vincent Cranny, Head of Health, Safety & Environment
Applicable to	All employee's managing, designing, planning or carrying out work involving excavations

During recent work to install a temporary overhead line, a wastewater pipeline was struck by a mechanical excavator, rupturing the pipeline. This particular incident led to ground contamination, delay to the works and extensive additional costs to the business in repairs, but damage to underground services carries extensive safety risks both to our employees and the public.

The wastewater pipeline that was damaged in this incident was clearly marked on United Utilities service drawings but these had not been obtained or issued to the team on site undertaking the work.

A key element of our safe system of work for avoiding danger from underground services is the obtaining, issuing and use of service records. Underground services in this context means all underground pipes and equipment associated with electricity, gas, water (including piped sewage), telecommunications and pipelines transporting petrochemical and other fluids.

Design work

Where work is being designed that may affect underground services, records must be obtained from the various asset owners (see details below) and the drawings considered during design work. Where applicable these must be included in any pre-construction information for planning.

Planning of work

Where excavation works are being planned, records must be obtained, either from pre-construction information if these are current i.e. very recently obtained, or from the various asset owners (see details below). The service records must be referenced in any planning stages and issued to the teams carrying out excavation work prior to the works commencing. Any records referenced or issued must be current.

Note: the term “planning” in relation to avoiding danger from underground services refers to the following common Electricity North West processes:

- Formal construction phase planning for capital projects
- Scheduling and issue of instructions for “follow-on” fault work

Safe digging practice

All service records issued to teams carrying out excavation work must be used to assist in deploying safe digging practices (as prescribed in training and Codes of Practice). This includes following asset owners instructions where necessary including contacting owners where excavations are in close proximity to major services.



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Obtaining service records

Records for gas, other services e.g. fuel/petrochemical, water and telecoms can be obtained via the following sources:

GAS

National Grid (for Electricity North West's area except North Cumbria)

National Grid Gas Map Viewer available in house via Citrix served applications.

Also available via Web National Grid Eagles website

<https://www.beforeyoudig.nationalgrid.com/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>

Individual registration required.

Also available via National Grid individual issued CD's

ApplicationSupport.software@dnvgl.com

Application Support Number: +44 (0)1509 282800

Individual registration required.

Northern Gas Networks (North Cumbria)

<https://www.fomsa.co.uk/iri/portal>

User Name A123456

Password 2015&Plans

OTHER SERVICES

<http://linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk>

Individual registration required.

WATER

<https://safedig.unitedutilities.com/uusafedig/default.aspx>

User Name: ELEC NW

Password: PRN5SUC

TELECOMMS

<https://www.openreach.co.uk/orpg/home/contactus/avoidingnetworkdamage/locatingournetwork/mapbyemail.do>

Individual registration required

<http://utilities.digdat.co.uk>

Individual registration required

Guides for all the above sources are on the Volt. For any further clarification or advice in implementing these requirements please contact the HS&E team.



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