



Excavation Service Partner Operative Injury

Whilst carrying out excavation work using a mini-excavator to assist with the identification and repair of a cable fault the team encountered an obstruction (a street lighting duct). An operative from the excavation team then entered the excavation and on moving the duct with an insulated shovel caused the Low Voltage (LV) cable directly under the duct to fail. The operative sustained superficial burns to his face.



Recommendations and action points

Working on Low Voltage Apparatus:

- **PSSI 12 “Low Voltage Apparatus”** (updated) states “*The **Authorised Person** in charge of the work shall ensure that all personnel involved in the location and repair of faulty or damaged cables are briefed on the fault conditions and intended approach to work. All personnel shall be appropriately supervised. This is particularly important for excavation teams*”.
- After the position of all SPEN cables and other services have been established, mini-excavators may be used where the risk assessment identifies that this would reduce the risks to personnel while excavating, for example during excavations adjacent to LV fault location positions.
- Significant hazards and control measures that have been recorded on SPEN and the Excavating Contracting Service Partner’s risk assessments shall be shared and both parties shall sign onto each others assessment.
- Never step onto or put unnecessary strain on un-supported cables in an excavation.
- Always be aware of the risk of disturbing latent cable damage when excavating.

Ensure that skin exposure is kept to a minimum:

- Flame retardant outer clothing is worn correctly;
- Hands are protected by **Approved** gloves that are appropriate to the task. Consideration shall be given to the performance of the glove under electrical arc e.g. gloves shall not be of a type where the material from which they are made would melt onto the skin;
- Appropriate face and/or eye protection is worn.