

FOR ISSUE TO ALL ENTERPRISE AND NETWORKS

SHE ALERT

Damage to HV cables whilst excavating

On 3 July 2014 a HV cable was struck by operatives working for a sub-contractor in Nottingham. The cables had been identified on the utility plans and had been marked on the pavement. The operatives were excavating with the use of insulated hand tools and a flashover occurred when the cable was hit. There were no injuries however there was potential for this incident to be much worse.



This incident could easily have been avoided by improved care and utilising correct digging techniques

What action is required?

Everyone

- Ensure safe digging techniques are utilised (HS(G)47 and WI-CG-LS-100) and do not rely on tape/sand/tiles as more often than not none of these are present.
- Ensure you scan and rescan at regular intervals (150mm) and expose cables in accordance with safe working practices (HS(G)47).
- Adhere to **C-S-M** Check drawings, Scan ground, Mark services prior to starting any excavation.

Supervisors

- If job is started and then put on hold, ensure that the risk are re-assessed prior to the job pack being re-issued and perform a new induction with updated stats.
- Take time to brief and confirm understanding of hazards identified.
- Supervise excavations where difficult conditions are identified.
- Avoid planning to excavate directly on top on LV and HV mains and identify using a slit trench.

Managers

- Obtain detailed information from site and if vague follow up as soon as more accurate information is available rather than pass opinion.
- Use Site Engagements to coach the team on safe excavating techniques and the Safety Family Culture.

Communication by (ü)	LSG	ü	Notice board	ü	Tool-box talk		Team brief	ü
Communication complete by (ü)	1 week	ü	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	

Issued by: Mike Neary – Lighting Services

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