



Safety Advice 02-2000 (NZ)

CABLE STRIKE INCIDENT

A contracting company was engaged to construct a retaining wall near a school crossing. The initial work involved digging holes on the edge of a concrete path near a wall. The contracts manager contacted the network owner to find out if electrical services were in the area where they were digging, and a verbal reply from his office was that there were no cables. The following day work began on digging holes and on the third hole an air hammer struck an 11,000 volt cable.

Once again the contractor failed to obtain clear assurance that the area was safe to work. The work area was located opposite a school and could have placed children at risk had the accident happened minutes earlier.