

Zero Harm Alert



Emergency Water Repair Service Strike



Photo Left: 11Kv damaged cable, Photo Right: Trench with proximity of Watermain to power cable

What happened?

At 11:15pm Downer was notified of a major watermain burst on SH6 in Brightwater, the failed pipe was a 200mm "Blue Brute" uPVC watermain, feeding the local reservoir,

- The crew used two separate Cat4 and Genny Locators to survey the area, finding only telecom cables
- The crew commenced the excavation at 1:50am removing loose Asphalt from the trench using the cleaning bucket of the 8t excavator
- Two of the team noted the potential of underground power after seeing cables entering the ground 30m from the excavation, external locates were ordered although excavation continued.
- At 2:00am the crew noted the street lights go out soon followed by a flash in the trench, Crew immediately stopped works and awaited power authorities arrival

Why did it happen?

- Utility teams process for detection of underground services only identifies as a minimum the use of Cat and Genny to locate services prior to excavation,
- The cable was unable to be located due it being Lead encased (not uncommon in older cables)

Actions required

- A stop work toolbox will be arranged and all Utility service crews reacting to emergency works will have findings in this report explained & expectations to prevent and reduce a similar occurrence outlined to them.
- Contact is being made with local power utilities for a change in process to provide 24hr external service locator support.
- A review and amendment to current SOP's and Reactive Works Process is underway to specific expected verification of underground services protocols.

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Discuss at next available pre-start meeting / post on notice boards (valid for 3 months)