

# HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

## LV Cable Strike

We received a report of an electric low voltage cable strike whilst conducting trial holes as part of ECI works at Ickenham to Harrow.

The LV cable was struck whilst breaking out concrete using a handheld breaker. The operative involved in the strike was extremely fortunate to avoid fatal/serious injury after the flash from the cable occurred away from his standing position.

The operative was wearing full ARC protection in accordance with PPE requirements. There were no reported injuries sustained following this incident.


The work area following the strike was made safe in order to engage with the asset owner UKPN to initiate a repair to the cable undertaken in the earlier hours of this morning.

The incident is currently under investigation and has been classified as a PSIF incident with high potential and exposure to high energy risk.

This alert serves as a reminder of the dangers when excavating around live underground electric cables and reiterate our mandated procedures to avoid the potential for similar incidents in the future.



### Important mandated requirements include:

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- Service Coordinators are responsible for CAT and Genny surveys (in all modes) and mark-up in advance of breaking ground
  - Service Coordinators must issue permits to break ground at the work location and be responsible for briefing the mark up and permit details to the Black Hat permit acceptor and digging team (including excavator operators)
  - Black Hat acceptors must be involved in breaking ground in the location covered by the permit
  - Black Hat acceptors must verify mark-up with CAT and Genny scans in all modes
  - **Concrete obstructions** found during excavation activities **MUST** result in the digging gang stopping excavation work and reassessing the way forward with the site management using the Site Decision Map - Concrete Obstruction or Encased around a Service CG632-06
  - Handheld breakers are **NOT** deemed hand tools to be used for safe digging practices
  - Use of powered equipment and power tools are not permitted within 500mm of a known service
  - Ensure digging gangs receive briefings on our Buried Services Action Card (CG632-03) and our Locate It (CG632-15) / Prove It (CG632-16) / Protect It (CG632-17) pledge toolbox talks at 6 monthly intervals