

	UNDERGROUND LINES	Date:
	TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK	Presenter:

NEAR UNDERGROUND CABLES

Damage to underground electric cables is a frequent occurrence which can result in fatal or serious injuries. In addition, the interruption to supplies may have both damaging and expensive consequences.

Before commencing any excavation, check with your supervisor that enquiries have been made to see if any cables are in the area (electric, telephone, television, etc.). If so, remember that the location shown on a plan may not necessarily be accurate. You should, for your own safety, always follow the rules given below

- Ask for a cable locating device, in good working order, to be available to locate all underground cables in the working area, you must be trained to use the device.
- Assume all cables are 'live', unless told by your Supervisor that they are dead.
- Hand dig trial holes carefully wherever possible along any indicated line and look for marker tapes or tiles above the cable. Continue to use the cable locator. Finally, establish exact location.
- Once exposed, protect cables from damage, supporting effectively where necessary.
- In the event of accidental damage - even if only apparently superficial - all persons should be kept clear until the Electricity Board has made an examination.
- When backfilling, make sure you have been instructed as to the Board's requirements. Replace marker tapes or tiles in their original positions.
- If you have to use hand-held power tools to break up concrete areas or other paved surfaces, avoid over-penetration. This is a common source of accident when cables are buried underneath.



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