

People are killed or seriously injured every year by coming into contact with high voltage electricity. Injuries can influence family, friends, and colleagues.

Taking time to plan activities that result in breaking ground can help us and our colleagues safe and unharmed.

There are several steps that you can take as part of the planning process which will reduce the risk of contact with a live service.

- Obtain relevant plans and stats/drawings from utility services before you excavate. Remember that not all services or cable locations will be shown on the drawings/plans.
- CAT scanning all areas before carrying out any digging activities, marking all services as you go. CAT scanning should only be carried out by trained competent personnel and at regular intervals throughout the dig process.
- When marking out via CAT scanning remember to CAT scan the wider area to capture any pot ends/services running adjacent to your work area. Remember that cables do not always run-in straight lines or the same depth.
- Look around the area for any street furniture such as streetlights, access units, manholes and CCTV. Locate the cables for these and if required use the Genny to trace. Remember some streetlights may not show as these may be timed for evenings only.
- Once the area has been CAT scanned and services marked up, ensure this information has been briefed to all involved and aware of the services located. Remember to brief this information daily to ensure new starters are captured.
- Ensure a permit to dig is in place before work activities take place. The permit to dig should contain all relevant information for the services within the work area, including service type, service depth, CAT scan information and dates/times.
- In the event of any changes within the excavation activities such as concrete, uncharted services or service damage, STOP and speak to your supervisor. Do not continue until the task has been reassessed.

