

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

If you are carrying out any work that involves breaking ground, think about what services could lay below and ways to ensure you are fully protected.

- Obtained the relevant documents of utility plans and a permit to dig.
- CAT Scanning to be carried out only by trained and competency persons. Ensure CAT and Genny equipment is in its service date.
- Always Carry out a CAT scan to locate services in the area. This should be carried out daily as part of a safe work process, not just at the start of the work.
- Carry out trial holes to expose services before using any mechanical excavation tool can give the opportunity to trace and locate the depths of services within the area.
- Use of the Genny and CAT scan together gives the ability to trace only the service its clamped too. This is useful in very built-up areas with lots of services.
- Rescanning at depths of 300mm will capture any services that may change depth without prior notice. This will identify a change and gives the opportunity to stop and reassess.
- Insulated tools should only be used when carrying out hand digging. Shovels, breaker bars, mattocks, and groundwork tools are the common insulated hand tools used.
- Hand tools need to be checked daily before use for any signs of damage. White cracks in orange insulation or damaged metal parts/cracks should be quarantined and replaced.
- If you damage an underground cable or find a damaged cable, vacate the excavation/area immediately and stop what you are doing, speak with your supervisor who will contact the relevant utility service owners. Treat all services as live at all times.

