

## Alert – High voltage cable strike

There has been a recent high voltage cable strike where one of our operatives struck a cable with a handheld breaker. There was a small flash but this did not result in any injuries.

The cable was known about, traced and marked up, and the operative struck it when trimming up the edge of the excavation

Every single electricity cable, from a domestic supply to a high voltage cable has the potential to cause serious harm and you are reminded to comply with the following:

### Learning / feedback

- Where services are found to cross the marked excavation area do review to see if excavation size or location can be moved or adjusted to avoid exposing the service
- Ensure the risk assessment is developed for the specific activity/excavation rather than the overall project
- Ensure exclusion zones are identified, marked and implemented
- Install physical barriers if necessary to remind and stop persons working near live cables
- Only use mechanical plant outside of exclusion zone, and this includes powered hand tools
- Start excavating from a 'safe' area and utilise under digging methods to check for services before breaking top surface
- Always wear flame resistant & arc resistant PPE when working around or near services and keep your sleeves down

Hole where the hand held heavy air breaker struck the cable

