

LV electric strike – Abbotswood Rd HP27

- * On the 12th October 2015 a KCD R&M team were continuing an ongoing job to replace a section of leaking water service. They had CAT'd the area and found one known LV electric cable on utility plans.
- * During the excavation the team identified a black service they assumed to be P.E water. The team leader cut the service with a pair of polycutters.
- * There was a loud bang, a flash and a puff of smoke – at which point the team realised they had cut an electric cable,
- * With incredible fortune there was no injury (in part due to use of insulated hand tool), just some slight singeing of hair to the team leaders hands.

Causation

- Team had assumed the 1/2" black poly service was water.
- No actions were taken to confirm the exact nature of the service prior to it being cut.
- CAT was only used prior to the excavation and not during.
- There was no last check on the service to be cut with CAT.
- CAT only used on two modes and genny not used at all
- No gloves were being worn.

What can I do differently / better?

- ALWAYS VERIFY THE NATURE OF SERVICE TO BE CUT – PLEASE NEVER ASSUME. YOU MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY.
- Use CAT and genny during excavations
- Record on the risk assessment what measures have been taken to verify nature of service prior to any cut / linestop etc.



Polycutters

LV cable