

HV Cable strike Ludgate Hill.

On the 11th October 2015 a team were excavating to locate and cap a redundant fire main, The work was in two sections. Firstly to dig down to find the original footpath at a depth of 2metres. This went without incident, On the second section of the dig, the area was re scanned and digging started through 200mm of reinforced concrete. At 200mm the outer casing of a HV cable was caught, this tripped and no flash or injury occurred.

Causation

- As gang were digging down through the concrete footpath, the bucket of the JCB digger came in contact with a HV cable.
- Drawings did not indicated the HV cables (bank of three) in the footpath. No crossing services or supplies were shown crossing the dig area No scaring apparent.
- No visual signs of electrical junctions in a reasonable area of dig site.
- The team had uncovered all services noted on the drawings provided.
- Several services not shown on all drawings had been located and successfully exposed without incident

What can I do differently?

- Ensure drawings provided to gangs are most up to date available and in colour.
- Always use a Cat and Genny to survey entire site before work commences.
- All gangs to wear task appropriate PPE as stated in the method statement and risk assessments.
- Ensure all operatives are trained and competent for the task they are undertaking.
- Nothing we do is so important we cant make time for safety
- More consultation between all concerned at the planning and design stage. The need for this excavation could well of been eliminated at this stage.

