

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Unseen, unheard, electricity can cause death or serious injury with out warning.

Why: Your body is an extremely good conductor of electricity – do not find out the hard way.

Outline: This talk will cover underground cables and overhead power lines.



Underground Cables

- Before digging, check plans provided by local electricity company, telephone company and cable TV company.
- Before digging, use a cable locating device that is in good working order. Ensure you are trained to use it.
- Assume all cables are live, unless your supervisor tells you they are dead.
- Hand dig trial holes to exposure cables, look for marker tape or tiles above the cables. Continue using the cable locator to establish exact location.

Q: Prior to digging, name two things that must be done?

- When exposed, protect cable from damage and support it.
- If the cable is accidentally damaged, keep all persons clear until the electricity company has inspected it.
- During back-filling, ensure marker tapes or tiles are replaced.
- If using power tools to break up concrete surfaces, avoid over-penetration as the cable may be directly underneath
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Q: What action would you take if you accidentally damaged an underground electric

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Remember: Plan – Locate – Dig

For more information

Call: +44(0) 1206 396446

Email: sales@vitalgrp.co.uk
vitalgrp.co.uk

TOOLBOX TALK #6

Electricity on Site

Overhead Power Lines

- Treat all overhead lines as live. Do not assume that they are only telephone wires.
- Ensure you know the maximum clearance distances specific by the electricity company.
- Do not bypass the 'goal posts' barriers or other warnings.
- Check your route is clear of overhead power lines prior to moving a mobile scaffold tower or metal ladder.

Q: What information should you find out prior to working close to powerlines?

- If signaling, always keep power lines in view. Guide plant under powerlines where 'goal post' have been erected.
- Ensure you observe special precautions laid down by the electricity prior to working under overhead lines.
- If erecting scaffolding adjacent to power lines, ensure the poles are handled a safe distance away.
- Do not stack materials or operate tippers under power lines, its will reduce the safe clearance and can result in arching.

Q: When erecting scaffolding close to power lines, what precautions must you take?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What must you remember during back-filing?

Q: As a signaler, what must you always keep in view?

NOTES

Remember: Do not let a live take a life!

Sources [Electrical safety on construction sites - HSE](#) [Electrical safety on construction sites](#) [Maintaining electrical equipment safety - HSE](#)

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