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| Title: | Safe Excavation Practices | Issue: | 1 | Reviewed: | Rob Witts |
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SAFE EXCAVATION PRACTICES – LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICE (Electricity, Gas etc)

Once you have identified an underground service at the location you need to excavate, the following guidelines below **MUST** be followed...

NOTE: Using power tools to break up hard surfaces often leads to accidents and incidents

- Always use CAT and GENNY and SAFE DIGS on every job to locate any underground services.
- If an underground service is located, use power tools a minimum of 500mm or more away from the indicated line of the underground service buried in or below a hard surface.
- The service should then be located by careful hand-digging under the hard surface.
- Gradually remove the hard surface until the cable is exposed.
- If the cable is not exposed, assume it is embedded within the surface material itself.
- Use a cable locator as a depth guide down the side of the excavation.
- The 500 mm safety margin may be reduced:
 - Where congestion of services renders it impracticable; or
 - Where surface obstructions limit the space available; but only if the line of the cable has been positively identified by plans, confirmed by a locator, and additional precautions are used to prevent damage to the services.

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| <p>This image shows the location of the blockage marked with the green X.</p> | <p>Following a CAT scan and consultation with the safe digs this image shows an electric cable that has been identified marked as a blue line.</p> | <p>This final image shows the safe distance of 500mm marked by the white line, this is where you would break surface and hand dig towards the electric cable identified (blue line)</p> |

If you are still unsure contact your line manager before excavating