

Safety Alert

LOST TIME INJURY INVOLVING BURNS TO HANDS, ARMS, NECK AND FACE

What Happened?

Operatives were excavating around a mains service breach joint to prove a Low Voltage main.



On disturbing the breeches joint, the outgoing cable arced, causing flash burns to both operatives. One operative's arms, right-hand side of his neck and face sustained flash burns, and another operative suffered severe burns to his left hand.



Root Cause(s):

- Failure to identify / notice a pre-existing damage and to take the appropriate action.
- Failure of operatives to wear the PPE provided.

What action must we take?

- Always be aware that unplanned events can happen.
- While working on site look for any visible or suspect signs of damage to existing services; and for electrical services listen for any sounds, crackling, bangs, smell of burning carbon or gases. If these are identified, stop work - make area safe, and contact your line manager.
- Make sure you wear your PPE as instructed.
- Make sure your PPE is suitable for the task.
- Nothing can be taken for granted, and you must be aware at all times that unplanned events can happen.

Remember

NOTHING WE DO IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT SAFELY.