

ELECTRIC CABLES CONTAINED WITHIN STEEL CARRIER PIPES

The problem...

In recent months there have been increasing instances across the South East Gas Network where teams are discovering electric service cables contained in buried steel tubes that are similar in appearance to the existing gas service pipes.

In some of these cases the cable was only discovered when the pipe was actually cut. Fortunately there have been no injuries sustained in these instances but the potential for serious injury or burns to any person who cuts through an electrical cable is extremely high. You must be sure that no cables are present before you cut any pipe.

What can we do to reduce the risks?

Before excavation takes place you must sweep the area with your 'cat and genny' and utilise the accessories to assist you in identifying the routes of cables and other services. Remember to check at intervals whilst excavating! Any steel pipe located should be tested with an approved volt stick before it is touched to ensure no stray electrical current or the presents of cables within the carrier pipe



What else can we do?

Use your Voltstick!

Make sure your Voltstick is working correctly and use it to check pipes for electrical current. If the tip lights up **Do Not** cut the pipe! If a signal is detected inform your Supervisor. Use the Plug Signal Injector (plug in device) within the premises and place the CAT (Genny Mode) over the exposed carrier pipe and check for a signal. The cable clamp can also be placed around any nearby exposed cable or the Genny leads can be placed on a nearby streetlight column door both methods will generate a positive signal. To check the carrier pipe is the required gas service place the Genny clamp around the meter inlet pipe and providing the gas service is all-metallic a positive signal will be detected with the CAT at the required cut out point. If the carrier pipe is confirmed to be free of any stay currents and confirmed not to be carrying a cable, Place a continuity bond across the section of pipe to be cut out making sure there is a good metal-to-metal contact between the bond and the carrier pipe

REMEMBER

If you are unsure if a pipe contains a cable do not cut it! Contact Your Supervisor!