The consequence of service strikes
Background

- We recently had an HV service strike
- Luckily no one was harmed but there was a high potential for a significant injury
- Does everyone appreciate the physical effect and impact a cable strike could have on YOU?
Service Avoidance

But what if it goes wrong?

- This is what happens when a 900mm water main is struck
Service Avoidance

But what if it goes wrong?

- This is a 132,000 v cable
The Law

- CDM-2007 – Part 4, reg 34:

**Energy distribution installations**

34.—(1) Where necessary to prevent danger, energy distribution installations shall be suitably located, checked and cleared.

(2) Where there is a risk from electric power cables—

(a) they shall be directed away from the area of risk; or

(b) the power shall be isolated and, where necessary, earthed; or

(c) if it is not reasonably practicable to comply with paragraph (a) or (b), suitable warning notices and—

(i) barriers suitable for excluding work equipment which is not needed, or

(ii) where vehicles need to pass beneath the cables, suspended protections, or

(iii) in either case, measures providing an equivalent level of safety, shall be provided or (in the case of measures) taken.

(3) No construction work which is liable to create a risk to health or safety from an underground service, or from damage to or disturbance of it, shall be carried out unless suitable and sufficient steps (including any steps required by this regulation) have been taken to prevent such risk, so far as is reasonably practicable.
Another service strike prosecution

- Operative received severe burns and was airlifted to hospital
- Incident entirely preventable
Another prosecution

- Labourer left with life changing injuries
- Struck 11kv underground cable with jackhammer
- 28 yrs old
- 62% burns to upper body, face, neck, arms
- 6 weeks in hospital for grafts
- Never work again
Warning

- The next slides are of a graphic nature, if you are at all squeamish please look away until you are told to look back.
But what if it goes wrong?

- Hitting cable / injury / burns
But what if it goes wrong?

- Or this could be the result!
Lets recap

- If we get this wrong:
  - Flash burn
  - Disfigurement
  - Disability
  - Loss of senses – vision, hearing, touch
  - Effect on your life
  - Effect on your loved ones lives
  - Inability to earn money
What we must do:

- Provide sufficient information – drawings / toughbook
- Plan work and undertake risk assessment
- Provide training for safe digging and use of equipment
- Provide correct calibrated equipment and tools
- Provide personal protective equipment
- Monitor activity
What you must do:

- Use information provided
- Follow method statement and risk assessments
- Check equipment prior to use
- Utilise training to mark up services and dig safely
- Correctly wear PPE
- IF ANYTHING CHANGES THEN STOP WORK & REPORT TO YOU SUPERVISOR / MANAGER