

HSE Alert No. 06

Protection of Underground Utilities and Services

DOCUMENT NO. TKF-ALR-HS-00006

Working near underground services including live electrical cables is a high risk activity. Prior to trenching, risks shall be assessed, detailed method statement shall be prepared and Specific Task Safety Instruction shall be conducted before carrying out the job. Most incidents can be prevented when risks are identified and adequate safe working practices are followed when working near underground utilities and services, especially buried electrical cables.

Safe System of Work

- Plan and implement a safe system of work for trenching near underground services, for hazardous work, this will include a Permit to Work (PTW) System.
- Prepare a detailed Method Statement / Risk Assessment of the proposed work and eliminate or minimize any identified hazards.
- Follow the details of MS/RA for protection of existing / new installed utilities.
- Follow the local legislation and project rules while working within the vicinity of U/G services



CAT Scanning for UG Utilities



Permit to work must be obtained

PTW System

Operatives

- Only competent operatives shall excavate for underground services.
- Trained operatives will identify different types of underground service. If in doubt, operatives must assume that an exposed service is live until they receive confirmation otherwise.
- If a service becomes damaged, then operatives shall stop the work immediately, report the damage to a supervisor or appropriate authority and not recommence work until informed by the authority that the work area is safe and any damage has been repaired.

Service Location

- Consult the utility provider first to obtain accurate service location information through location plans and/or site visits.
- Identify, locate and mark the position of their equipment. Features such as street lighting, drainage access points and marker posts can help identify the presence of nearby services.
- Use cable location detection equipment to confirm the exact location of the underground services that are believed to be present and check for services that may not appear on utility provider documentation.

Excavation Process

- Excavate slowly and supervisor must check regularly, at least 0.5 meters.
- Continuous monitoring within the vicinity of underground utilities, maintained 3 meters distances.
- Once excavation works completed, reinstate and backfill carefully to avoid damaged to services.



Hazard Signboard



Survey Marking

This alert is mandatory for contractor and all subcontractors working on TEKFEN Projects.

To be cascaded to all and displayed on all HSE Notice Boards

**SAFETY IS THE KEY
TO ACCIDENT FREE**

