

SAFETY Alert



03/2014

Rupture of a buried electrical cable 20 000 V

DATE: August 2014

ISSUED BY: QHSE DEPARTMENT

OBJECT: RUPTURE OF A BURIED ELECTRICAL CABLE 20 000 V

DESCRIPTION:

During the positioning of drains under-conduct performed by a subcontractor, the trencher broke an electrical buried cable 20 000V. No member of the working team has realized that the incident occurred (no visual or materials indication, no noise), due to the noise and the earth-moving produced by the trencher. Subcontractor's staff became aware of the rupture of the electric cable following the arrival on site of the personnel of the energy distribution company; they arrived to check what happened after a call received by an owner. None of the subcontractor has suffered any physical injury (including trencher operator).



CONSEQUENCES

- No relevant asset damages;
- No environmental impacts;
- Stop the activities (positioning of drains and trenching);
- Incident investigation analysing the root causes.

CAUSES

- *Failure to follow the process to be applied;*
- *Lack of organization;*
- *Lack of skills in the process of identifying buried network;*
- *Inadequate leadership/supervision.*



CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Several measures have been implemented to avoid the repetition of other similar episodes:

– Operating methods:

- ✓ Electrical cable broken (HTA 20 000 Volts) was repaired following the intervention of the personnel of the energy distribution company;
- ✓ Meeting with responsible of the energy distribution company;
- ✓ Update the table showing the surveys and combining data with those provided by the energy distribution company;
- ✓ Update all the alignment sheet;
- ✓ Reorganize the management of documentation (alignment sheet, etc..) and surveys;
- ✓ Recall laws and rules relating to the management of the activities in the vicinity of network;
- ✓ Check on site to confirm the position of surveyed services and the services to be surveyed.

– Training:

- ✓ Share information about the incident by issuing a Safety Alert;
- ✓ Inform (TBM) companies involved in the project about immediate notification of risky situations and all kinds of accidents;
- ✓ Inform employees about potential risks as a result of rupture of buried network;
- ✓ Training regarding project specific process of identification of buried network.