

Buried Utilities

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

Striking a live service is the excavation hazard people underestimate, because the ground looks empty. Gas, power, water and fiber all sit somewhere nobody can see from the surface.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Digging started on drawings alone, with no locate requested or the locate expired.
- Marks washed off, driven over or faded, and the dig carried on anyway.
- Mechanical digging right up to a marked line instead of hand-digging in to find it.
- Something unmarked found in the trench and worked around rather than reported.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Request the locate, wait for it, and confirm the marks are still legible on the day.
- Treat the drawings as a hint, not a map. Services move and records are wrong.
- Hand-dig within the tolerance zone either side of every mark.
- Stop immediately if you find anything unmarked, and get it identified before continuing.
- If you strike a service, clear people first, then call it in. Do not try to fix it.

ASK THE CREW

1. What has been marked on this site, and when?
2. What do the drawings show that the marks do not?
3. Where are we digging closest to a live service today?
4. If we hit a gas line in the next hour, what happens in the first sixty seconds?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
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SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE