

Excavation Incident

What happened?

Excavation work was required to locate and unearth an 11kV cable. The 11kV cable was found to be encased in a layer of concrete. During removal of the concrete layer with a rock breaker power tool, water was spotted coming out of the cracked concrete. On closer inspection it was revealed that another cable conduit containing a live 400V cable had been damaged. The damage was caused by a large piece of concrete breaking off during the concrete breaking activity and impacting on the 400V cable conduit (not through direct impact of the rock breaker). The live 400V cable was not contacted and the job was immediately stopped, scene preserved, and permits returned.

Thermal Generation Site

What did we learn?

The 400V cable details and location were not clear on underground drawings or through detection services. Where any doubt exists a second form of detection should be considered.

Work Control Procedures were not fully adhered too in this case. Ensure Job Risk Assessment is completed >7 days prior to the task being undertaken.

Pre-Work Meeting should be conducted >1 day prior to the work commencing and greater time given to risk assessment and controls.

