


Alert



Outline the Scene	Incident	240v Power Cable Cut with Power Saw
	Subject	Safe work around live services
	Critical Risk Type	CR037 Contact with Electricity
	Incident Date	31/05/2023
	Business Unit	Brian Perry Civil – Southern Region

What happened?



- On Wednesday 31 May, workers were undertaking work outside of a Wellington Water Limited, Wastewater Pump Station
- The work was being undertaken during a planned shutdown and the pump station was offline, and locked out
- Workers excavated the site to expose the existing services so the repair work could be undertaken
- An existing 150mm diameter waste pipe had to be cut out to allow for a new section to be installed
- A worker used a power cut off saw fitted with an abrasive disc to cut through the existing pipe
- As the cut was completed, the worker lifted the saw, the abrasive disc contacted a 240v electrical cable which was near the pipe
- The worker was not immediately aware that the cable had been damaged, shortly following the incident the cable started to spark and crackle.
- The work area was immediately evacuated, and Wellington Electricity Limited (WEL) were notified of the incident
- WEL technicians arrived on site to assess and repair the damaged cable



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We believe all injuries are preventable, here are some questions to help us learn



- Have all services been positively identified and exposed?
- Are controls in place to protect existing services from the task?
- Can utility services be isolated at source by the utility providers?
- Are workers aware of the risks associated with work around the existing services?
- Have we considered alternative methods of cutting that reduce risk to existing services?
- Does the project emergency management plan include details for the utility's companies?

For more information, please contact;

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