

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

SERVICE STRIKES – WHAT TO DO

Image taken from the cover of HSE guidance: Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

Contact with Sewers

- In the event of damage or suspected damage, call the water company immediately, and inform your line manager, Site Manager and Head Office.
- Evacuate the excavation of all personnel immediately (by safe means).
- Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Supervisor to re-read tool box talk on Weils Disease to all affected. Any sign of illness must be referred to the worker's GP.

Contact with Water Main/Pipes

- In the event of damage or suspected damage, call the water company immediately, and inform your line manager, Site Manager and Head Office.
- Water at high pressure can be fatal and burst pipes can fill an excavation quickly, so clear the excavation of all personnel immediately (by safe means). Do not leave a length of pipe unsupported.

Contact with Gas Pipes

- In the event of damage or suspected damage, call the gas company immediately, and inform Site Manager, your line manager and Head Office.
- At the slightest hint of gas escape, evacuate the area of people and do not permit anyone to smoke in the area. Extinguish all naked flames.

Contact with Electric Cable

- In the event of damage or suspected damage, call electric company immediately, and inform Site Manager, line manager and Head Office.
- At the slightest hint of damage to an electrical cable, evacuate the area, and do not permit anyone to touch the cable or anything connected or touching it until the electric company instruct otherwise.
- If your plant makes contact with electrical cables – stay in your cab if safe to do so. If not safe to stay in cab, jump clear of plant/vehicle. Remember, electricity can arc across.

Spillage Controls

Do YOU know what to do if there's a spillage on site?

Spills spread very quickly and cause environmental harm. Fines and clean-up costs can be expensive. So TAKE ACTION!

1. Don't ignore a spill, however small – STOP WORK and ACT immediately
2. If the spillage is flammable, extinguish all possible ignition sources
3. Contain the spill at the source – turn off the valve/tap, plug the hole, put onto a bund or other suitable container, etc
4. Contain the spill as close to the source as possible – on land use earth/sand to construct a bund around it or use socks from the spill kit. Use booms to contain oil spills that have already entered a watercourse.
5. Stop the spill entering drains or watercourses using drain covers or bunds – DON'T EVER hose a spill into a drainage system, whether storm or foul
6. Inform the Site Manager and Head Office
7. Clean up the spill using spill kit or soil/sand. Dispose of contaminated materials correctly: treat spills of oil, diesel, paint, etc as hazardous waste