

What Happened?

- On 17th September 2020, a Network Asset Maintenance team were replacing a District Meter between a 450mm GRP, 12" PVC and 2x 10" PVC Water mains.
- A PTW was requested and issued and works commenced over 2 days. As the team installed the temporary works they stopped for a break. Whilst viewing the works the soil gave way and water erupted showering the area in soil & stones and breaking windows on the excavator and van.
- No one was injured though did cause local disruption to the traffic



Why did it really happen?

- The PTW did not identify the GRP main or the fact that the team were excavating .
- Requests were made to Network planners by Project Managers to confirm isolation would be done and this was confirmed however no instruction given to the NST to isolate the main.
- Onsite team & NST should have been aware that the mains required isolation as per ES26 procedures but failed to stop & check.
- PVC & GRP mains in this area were not isolated as required by the PTW and ES26 process
- Incident highlights a breakdown in ES 26 procedures in that various checks are necessary from site to confirm safe working systems are in place before excavating

What can I do differently?

Ensure you are aware of ES26 before working on live Mains.

Ensure that when working on sites next to live GRP/UPVC mains that you confirm isolation is in place before excavating.

If issuing PTW always check and confirm that you are aware of all site hazards, tasks and feedback from project managers & planners before issuing a PTW

Always complete a SHE5 dynamic RA prior to each task you carry out

3. Working on GRP/UPVC Mains

There will be no working on or near live GRP/UPVC mains:

- Confirm isolation and depressurisation before starting any work.
- If, at any point, a GRP/UPVC main is identified, STOP work immediately.

