

What Happened?

- Team were tasked to excavate on the footway and customers property to locate a leak on a water service pipe.
- The team completed elements of the safe system of work, but not all.
- During excavation with a jack hammer, breaking out concrete, the operative has damaged a galvanised steel duct and struck a low voltage electrical supply (3 phase 415v) 200mm below the surface.
- As a result of the strike, the service '*flashed*' and the operative suffered superficial injuries to the lower right leg and a further injury to an area on the left side of the stomach.



Why did it really happen?

- Team failed to follow safe digging procedures by:
 - Using mechanical equipment within 500mm of a known service.
 - Not identifying and marking up a service shown on the service drawings.
 - Not escalating to a supervisor the presence of a known service in concrete.
- Permit to break ground call, did not include the supervisor doing a video call or checking pictures of the site which is part of the safe system of work.
- Injury occurred due to socks being tucked into arc resistant PPE

What can I do differently?

- Always follow Safe digging procedures, they are designed to protect you, your peers and members of the public (RAMS, HSG47, site specific procedure).
- Reassess the area to be excavated and escalate any finding to supervisor when unsafe conditions are observed.
- All identified services should be clearly marked up, extended outside the work area and in the excavation. Renew mark up if top layer has been removed.
- Don't just wear your PPE, wear it correctly to protect you fully.
- If in doubt STOP!