

Property & Construction Magazine - Article

Cable Strikes and other Underground Services Check Before You Start to Dig

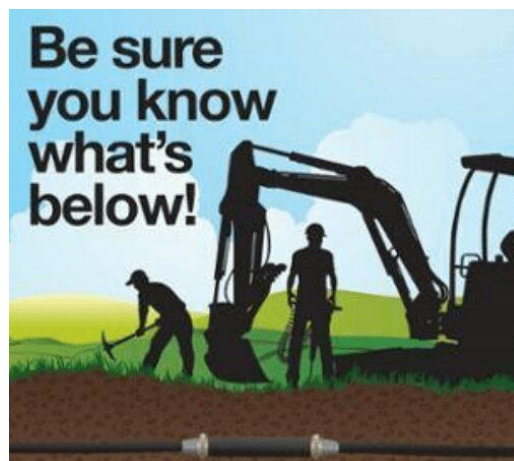
We understand from the Guernsey HSE and our utility providers that there have been a number of unintended, negligent cable and other strikes of underground services by contractors and others in Guernsey in the past year.

These strikes can be costly to repair, disruptive and inconvenient. They are very dangerous, often resulting in severe life changing injuries and/or death.

It is hard to understand why they happen when there is so much free, helpful, easy to access information and guidance available to those who wish to excavate our ground in Guernsey.

Why risk your own life and the lives of others by not undertaking simple checks?

And the damage to your reputation, potential for heavy fines and severe disruption of not taking simple precautions can be very damaging too. Not to mention the damage strikes do and the costs of rectifying them plus a number of consequential losses which arise when a service provided by a utility is forced out of action. If you still feel complacent/unbothered/unconcerned, look at some of the horrific pictures on the internet of people injured/killed by strikes to underground utilities, read about what happened and the consequences.



You can access sensible FREE advice from our utility providers – such as

Guernsey Electricity www.electricity.gg/our-services/services/click-before-you-dig/ 01481 200700
Guernsey Energy www.guernseyenergy.gg/dial-before-you-dig 01481 724811



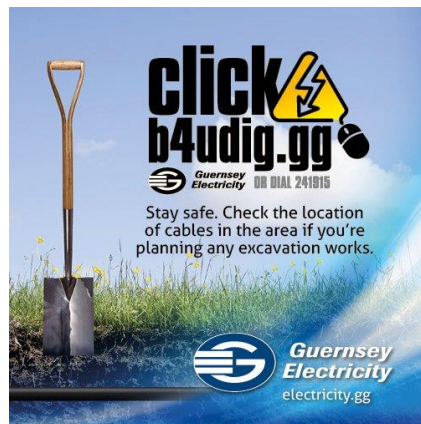
Sure www.guernseyhelp.sure.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360008119399-Home-Improvements-Dial-before-you-dig- 01481 700700

Guernsey Water – www.water.gg 01481 229500

You can also call our HSE Team (see www.gov.gg/hse). And there is a range of consultancy advice available to businesses in Guernsey if needed – see the providers section of www.gosha.org.gg.

And if you'd like to hear more about the topic – and we hope you do – come along to our free (to attend) breakfast meeting at La Villette Hotel (8am – free breakfast rolls too beforehand - on 17 November 2022), for a talk to be given on the topic by Guernsey Electricity. Register your attendance at www.gosha.org.gg

It will help you and could save a life.



The HSE provides good guidance, which is also publicised by utilities in Guernsey.

This guidance is aimed at all those involved in commissioning, planning, managing and carrying out work on or near underground services. It will also be of use to the owners and operators of such facilities.

It outlines the potential dangers of working near underground services and gives advice on how to reduce any direct risks to people's health and safety, as well as the indirect risks arising through damage to services.

It explains the three basic elements of a safe system of work during excavation:

- Planning the work
- Locating and identifying buried services
- Safe excavation

The HSE booklet **Avoiding danger from underground services** (www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg47.pdf) gives guidance on how you can manage the risks of digging near underground cables.

Read it.