



# Dial before you dig to protect people and property

With Guernsey Electricity and Guernsey Energy keen to avoid service disruption caused by people inadvertently hitting their services and the accompanying injury and damage when a strike occurs, GOSHA chairman **Andrew Mills** raises awareness of this important topic



**I**F YOU inadvertently hit a utility cable or pipe in Guernsey, the consequences can be dire – severe injury or death and damage can (and do) occur.

And you could affect the supply of the utility to others in the island, with potentially significant, adverse consequences.

No incidents of this nature should occur if care is taken, work is properly planned and the Dial Before You Dig service is utilised before work starts.

But, sadly, people are hurt and property is damaged each year, largely through ignorance and carelessness.

Let's stop this ignorance and carelessness.

These outcomes can involve lots of people – some will be workers

undertaking the excavation, some will be the customer including their employees, some will just happen to be nearby, such as site visitors and neighbours.

All disturbed utilities can involve danger but the utilities with most danger would be electricity and gas. If you hit those utilities in error, the consequences can be severe and sometimes, catastrophic.

When undertaking excavation work in Guernsey, it's essential to prioritise safety by dialling or clicking before you dig. Here are the details:

See the following websites:

- <https://guernseyenergy.gg/dial-before-you-dig>
- <https://www.electricity.gg/customer-hub/book-a-service/click-before-you-dig/>

These are free services and must be used... there is no excuse for not using them.

Using them can save you so much hassle, they help you get the job done well and on time and using them could save lives, serious injuries and prevent damage to property.

Remember the massive impact for people and financial consequences and disruption which can result if something goes wrong.

Dial Before You Dig was created to help everyone who excavates ground in Guernsey. Please use it.

## NOT ASSESSING RISKS BEFORE YOU DIG

Guernsey's underground services, including electricity cables, gas pipes, water mains and telecoms cables, pose a significant risk to excavators if not properly identified, marked and avoided.

Damaging these services can result in:

- Electric shocks and gas explosion
- Fires
- Loss of significant quantities of precious island water
- Pollution
- Disruption of telecommunications and other essential services
- Fines, huge compensation claims, loss of a good reputation, loss of good employees, loss of your contract, etc

There are some pretty gruesome videos on the internet, which highlight what can go wrong and the consequences of hitting utilities.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment really is a life and property saver.

Dialling (or clicking) before you dig is just one aspect of a risk assessment. By identifying potential hazards and taking steps to eliminate and mitigate them, you can encourage a safe working environment and you will prevent accidents.

## KEY ACTIONS YOU SHOULD IMPLEMENT

- Dial or click before you dig to identify underground utilities/services and prevent accidents.
- Use a cable avoidance tool to pinpoint service locations.
- Plan your work carefully, considering potential risks and taking steps to mitigate them. Take professional surveyor advice if you are unsure.
- Follow best practice for safe excavation, including using insulated tools. See the local and UK sites of the Health and Safety Executive for guidance.
- Ensure your employees have

the knowledge and skills to do the job well, have good tools and have access to protective equipment (PPE) to keep them safe.

● Give all site workers and operatives good, relevant training. By prioritising safety and dialling before you dig, you can help prevent accidents and ensure a safe working environment.

Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility, and taking the time to dial before you dig can make all the difference.

## THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS YOU NEED ARE:

- 0800 5870285 (Guernsey Electricity)
- 01481 725811 (Guernsey Energy)

The consequences of not doing the right thing can be massive: financial, emotional, loss of your good reputation and team members and many more.

Take sensible precautions before you dig. Dial Before You Dig is an essential part of those precautions.

**'When undertaking excavation work in Guernsey, it's essential to prioritise safety by dialling or clicking before you dig'**

