

Electricity on Site

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Unseen, unheard, electricity can cause death or serious injury without warning.

Why: Your body is an extremely good conductor of electricity – do not find out the hard way.

Outline: This talk will cover underground cables and overhead power lines.



Underground Cables

- Before digging, check plans provided by local electricity company, telephone company and cable TV company.
- Before digging, use a cable locating device that is in good working order. Ensure you are trained to use it.
- Assume all cables are live, unless your supervisor tells you they are dead.
- Hand dig trial holes to exposure cables, look for marker tape or tiles above the cables. Continue using the cable locator to establish exact location.

Q: Prior to digging, name two things that must be done?

- When exposed, protect cable from damage and support it.
- If the cable is accidentally damaged, keep all persons clear until the electricity company has inspected it.
- During back-filling, ensure marker tapes or tiles are replaced.
- If using power tools to break up concrete surfaces, avoid over-penetration as the cable may be directly underneath

Q: What action would you take if you accidentally damaged an underground electric cable?

REMEMBER: PLAN – LOCATE – DIG

NOTES

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NOTES

Overhead Power Lines

- Treat all overhead lines as live. Do not assume that they are only telephone wires.
- Ensure you know the maximum clearance distances specified by the electricity company.
- Do not bypass the 'goal posts', barriers or other warnings.
- Check your route is clear of overhead power lines prior to moving a mobile scaffold tower or metal ladder

Q: What information should you find out prior to working close to powerlines?

- If signalling, always keep power lines in view. Guide plant under powerlines where 'goal posts' have been erected.
- Ensure you observe special precautions laid down by the electricity company prior to working under overhead lines.
- If erecting scaffolding adjacent to power lines, ensure the poles are handled a safe distance away.
- Do not stack materials or operate tippers under power lines, it will reduce the safe clearance and can result in arcing.

Q: When erecting scaffolding close to power lines what precautions must you take?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you:

Q: What must you remember during back-filling?

Q: As a signaller, what must you always keep in view?

REMEMBER: DO NOT LET A LIVE TAKE A LIFE

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>