

ALERT TOPIC	Cable Strike	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL CS 1
TARGET AUDIENCE:	All CRL and relevant Stakeholder Community	AUTHORISED BY:	Nigel Roper
DATE OF ISSUE:	Tuesday 12 April 2022	DISPLAY UNTIL:	Sept 2022

An incident has occurred recently when an unidentified electric cable was struck whilst hand digging a Trial Pit.

No-one was injured.

The outcome could have been significantly worse if the cable had been of a higher voltage.

The following points have been identified as contributory factors towards the incident.

- The Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scan had failed to identify all buried services within the trial pit area.
- The Genny had not been used in conjunction with the CAT.
- The MSRA required a Genny to be used with the CAT. (This enables any cable which may not have live power at the time of the scan to be identified.)
- The Training Certificate for the CAT operator was over 3 years old.
- There was not a trained CAT and Genny operator on site whilst the Trail Hole was being excavated.
- The Permit to Dig (PTD) was raised by and issued to the same person who had no CAT and Genny training.
- CRL's Procedure 23 – Buried Services – had not been fully complied with.
- The cable, when struck by the insulated shovel, was 200mm below ground level. (Shallower than would normally be expected.)
- Flame retardant overalls were not being worn.

CRL have implemented a review of their procedures for all breaking ground activities and the Permit to Dig. A review of industry best practice and client specific requirements are also being taken into account.

CRL are reviewing additional training needs to ensure everyone associated with similar operations are fully trained and aware of their responsibilities.



CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- Once the review of Digging Procedures has been completed the revised procedures will be communicated to all interested parties
- Only trained and authorised persons may use a CAT or issue and receive a Permit to Dig

SHEQ ALERT REVIEW AND BRIEFING RECORD

ALERT TOPIC:	Cable Strike	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL CS 1
PROJECT NAME:		DATE OF BRIEFING:	
BRIEFING DELIVERED BY:			

The following people have signed to confirm receipt and understanding of this SHEQ Alert:

NAME (Print)	EMPLOYER	SIGNATURE

Please use this area to record any comments, questions or further actions arising from this briefing:

If you have any SHEQ issues that you wish to discuss, please contact your supervisor, line manager, or a member of the SHEQ team.