

## **Buried Services – Points to consider**

- Existing service drawings
- Moleseye reports
- Trial holes
- Isolation requests
- Protection of services (after inspection/exposure)
- Identification
- Training (understanding of SSOW) (Ops) (equipment)
- Assistance from Ops/SW in existing locations
- Correct equipment
- Permit to dig
- CAT & Genny Calibration checks
- Safe digging practice procedure
- Use of SOND / tools (soil pick) / accessories (cable clamp)
- Emergency procedures
- Hydro excavation
- Safe digging – (hand dig)

## **Buried Services – Common Causes of Damage**

- Lack of training
- Not following SSOW / company procedures
- Faulty equipment
- Time constraints / pressure / lack of planning / preparation
- Inaccuracy of drawings
- Lack of physical identification of service through Site/Area
- Use of inappropriate hand tools
- Excessive use of mechanical excavator
- Use of pointed hand digging tools
- Lack of protection to exposed service
- Inadequate support of trench
- Lack of adherence to 500mm / 1m rule
- Assumption that all services have been located
- Unmarked services, ensure correct identification after pipe laid (eg marker tape) [HSG47]
- Incorrect CAT / Genny use / not using Genny
- Not obtaining correct / updated service information

## **Buried Services – Points during Inspection**

- 1. Induction:** (contents of and proof of briefing)
  - Person inducted and proof of briefing – 1pt
  - Induction makes reference to digging SSOW – 1pt
- 2. Competent:** (proof of training & experience)
  - Training for operative using tool must be specific to tool not just NRSWA training – 3pts
- 3. Method Statement: [procedure]**
  - Drawings & sketches (Colour) available – 1pt
  - MS states that no use of mechanical excavator within specified minimum distance (500mm / 1m) – 2pts
  - MS states how services are to be protected once exposed – linked to ground conditions – 1pt
- 4. Risk Assessment: [permit]**
  - Permit / risk assessment in place – 3pts
  - Buried Identified in the risk assessment – 1pt
- 5. Briefing:** (in place)
  - Proof of briefing in place for all involved in operation including excavator driver – 5pts (points awarded is either a 5 or zero)
- 6. Equipment & Material:**
  - Genny used when scanning area – 2pts
  - Goal posts erected correctly (if applicable) – 1pt
- 7. Risks Controlled from Equipment & Material:**
  - Are the hazards associated from points, picks, pinch bars etc identified – 5pts
- 8. Equipment Inspected/Examined:**
  - CAT & Genny within calibration date – 1pt
- 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**
  - Adequate and correct PPE being worn – 1pt
- 10. Worker describes risks Risks/Hazards:**
  - Personal injury from service due to striking cable/service – 2pts
- 11. Worker describes Control Measures:**
  - Worker able to describe the location of nearby services – 1pt
  - Worker able to describe the minimum distance for mechanical digging – 1pt
- 12. Activity carried out Safely:** (General Observations/Personal Comments)
  - Services physically marked on ground – 1pt
  - Protected/supported service – 1pt
  - Another – 1pt

