

Cable Location – Underground Service Strikes

CAMs # 458273

1. Relevant To

This alert is important for all crews involved in any type of excavation where underground services may be present. It does not apply to our quarrying operations.

2. Critical Risk: Energy – Service strikes

Striking underground services (electricity cables, high pressure gas lines etc) can cause electrocution, explosions or fire. Life changing injuries may result. It can also interrupt services like water, phone and internet.

3. Contributing Factors

In 2024, a Safety Improvement Team reviewed historical underground service strike incidents. The team identified two contributing factors:

- Almost all service strikes could have been prevented if our existing excavation permit requirements had been followed.
- Better access to CAT and Genny service location equipment would help.

Thanks to the Safety Improvement Team: Paaka Westrupp, Michelle Kedian, Roydon Palmer, Darryn Malcolm, Jimmy McGrath and Caroline Moody.

4. Mandatory Requirements

By 1 April 2025, Senior Managers are asked to:

- 4.1. Discuss this Red Alert and work through an excavation permit in detail with all crews involved in any type of excavation work.
- 4.2. Make sure that every excavator operator always has a CAT and Genny service location tool available to them on site. Regions that need to purchase more units should fund this from discretionary CAPEX budgets.
- 4.3. Make sure that all FH employed excavator operators complete the “Locating & Protecting Underground Services” (LPUS) training within the first 12 months of their employment. Current operators who have not yet completed LPUS must do this by the end of 2025.
- 4.4. Make sure that our new and less experienced CAT & Genny operators are supervised until they have completed both their LPUS training and CTO.
- 4.5. Share a copy of this alert with your local excavation subcontractors. NB: Where possible, please choose to use subbies who provide the same level of equipment and training for their workers.

The NZ Safety Team will:

- 4.6. Work with the SIT to develop a KnowHow resource for using CAT & Genny service location equipment. (J Hewison)
- 4.7. Update the excavator operators’ CTO assessment process to include a discussion on the KnowHow material (and) an evaluation of operators’ CAT & Genny skills.
- 4.8. Confirm that PDP requirements for excavator operators include LPUS training.

5. Revision History

Date	Author	Brief Description of Change
21/01/2025	T. Talbot	First draft
27/01/25	TT, SS, PW	Final draft

6. Closeout Requirements

Please discuss this Red Alert with your teams, complete the items below and return to your Safety Manager. They will collate all responses for the business unit and send a single confirmation to the HSQE Analyst at nzincident@fultonhogan.com before 1 April 2025.

6.1. What date was this Red Alert communicated to the workplace: ____/____/2025

6.2. Could this incident occur in your Region/Project? (Circle your answer below)

YES If Yes, please answer questions 6.3 & 6.4

NO If No, please answer question 6.5

6.3. Have all the actions and recommendations been implemented? (Circle your answer below)

YES If Yes, please answer question 6.4

NO If No, please answer question 6.5

6.4. Are these measures sufficient to eliminate or reduce the risk of an incident (or similar) described in the alert from happening again? (Circle your answer below)

YES or **NO**

If No, please raise a CAM's case listing the required actions and accountabilities to be taken in order to eliminate or reduce the risk. Record the CAM's number below:

CAMs Case Number: CAMs-_____

6.5. Please explain why this incident could not occur within your region / project.

In signing this document, I confirm that the actions above have been completed in this region/project.

Region / Project: _____

Region / Project Manager Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____