

ASP Safety Alert Service Installation and Compliance

Alert Number: SA02_23

22 December 2023

Subject: In service 11kV cable cut with reciprocating saw

Key Messages

- Ensure the scope of works is clearly communicated and understood by all staff involved.
- Ensure all underground cables are correctly identified as per ESR requirements.

Dear ASP's,

A safety incident has recently occurred on Ausgrid's network which had the potential to result in serious injury. The scope of works was to remove an out of service (previously identified and cut) High Voltage cable when an in service 11kV cable was cut with a handheld reciprocating saw, causing protection to operate and injuries to the individual.



Key Areas of focus:

Before undertaking a task ensure you:

- Have a thorough understanding of the scope of work – complete a comprehensive hand over if anyone is new to the site.
- Ensure all required documentation is accurate, current, available, and understood by all members of the workgroup.
- Ensure all relevant permits are in place prior to undertaking works (Access Permits, Clearance to Work, Confined Spaces Entry Permits, Hot Works etc).
- Always correctly identify underground cables before starting work as per ESR clause 9.3 & 9.9
- Adhere to fatigue management policies and procedures.
- Always have an emergency plan and a thorough understanding of the reporting process in case of an emergency. Please refer to [GI02_23](#) for Ausgrid's reporting requirements.
- Carry out work in accordance with Ausgrid's [Electrical Safety Rules](#) (ESR) and relevant Network Standards using approved methods.

Safety is our number one priority, no matter your role. By adhering to Ausgrid's relevant documentation, we are able to reduce the risk of incidents occurring on Ausgrid's network and the potential to cause harm to ourselves as well as members of the public.

As we move into the new year, it's imperative that we maintain a high focus on safety so we can all go home to our families. When returning from the holiday period it's important to pause, focus and reassess before starting work. Look out for your colleagues and work safely.

Regards,

Ausgrid
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