

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices



Alert Number: SA13_17

15th November 2017

Subject: Recent failings when working on or near Ausgrid's underground electricity network

Key messages

CAUTION

All sites where excavation work is proposed to be carried out should be treated with caution and thoroughly checked for the presence of underground cables. Prior to starting machine excavation works, all assets must be physically identified and staff appropriately trained and qualified to perform the work being undertaken.

Background

Ausgrid have been made aware of a number of serious incidents involving ASP's whilst carrying out works on or near Ausgrid's underground electricity network.

The identified incidents involved;

- Unauthorised works within close approach to live low voltage and high voltage assets
- Authorised works performed outside of Ausgrid's requirements.

Some of the recent incidents have resulted in damage to Ausgrid assets and had potential to cause significant impacts to the workers involved.

Legislative requirement

NSW legislation requires you to obtain current Dial Before You Dig service and utility plans prior to commencing any excavation works. These plans can be obtained by calling '1100' or visiting '1100.com.au' and must be no more than 30 days old when excavation commences.

Excavation near transmission cables.

Where cable plans identify "You are working near transmission cables" it is compulsory to notify Ausgrid two weeks prior to your scheduled start date. Ausgrid will then arrange for a representative to attend the site during excavation work. Phone the Ausgrid Transmission enquiries line on (02) 4951 9200 to arrange for an Ausgrid representative in your region.

Emergency Contact Details

Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules (ESR) clause 2.1 outlines the procedure for reporting emergencies. You must notify the relevant Ausgrid Control Room of the incident by contacting;

- Sydney Control Room emergency number Ph: 9284 1140
- Newcastle Control Room emergency number Ph: 4951 0540

Further to requirements for reporting to the Ausgrid Control Room, the ASP1 must also report network related incidents associated with Contestable works to the assigned ASP Compliance Officer.

NS156

Requirements outlined within Ausgrid Network Standard NS156 must be followed where working near underground electrical network assets. A pre work checklist is included within NS156, it is recommended that this checklist be completed prior to commencing any excavation works on site.

Refer to Ausgrid Safety Alert SA01_17 for further details surrounding the definition of when work is being performed on or near Ausgrid's network.

Ausgrid Checklist for work near or around underground cables

It is the responsibility of the Constructor to ensure that underground pits, ducts and cables are not damaged as a result of construction work. It is also your duty to protect your workers from harm or injury. This Checklist is intended to be used as a guide to what Constructors should do to make sure they have satisfied the minimum requirements to minimise damage to underground networks.

PLANS, LOCATION and NOTIFICATIONS	Completed
All relevant utilities plans obtained from Dial Before You Dig? (call 1100 – allow at least 5 working days for plans).	
Checked issue date on all the above plans to ensure issue was within the last 30 days?	
Examined plans and assessed all possible impacts on Ausgrid's network?	
Do you have both Underground Distribution and Transmission Plans (if applicable), on site at all times?	
All cables and conduits shown on the Ausgrid plans been located and marked on the ground?	
If you are planning to use a bore, have you ensured that the equipment is calibrated?	
Have you read and understood the requirements of NS 156? (for copies of NS 156 visit Ausgrid's Website or phone Ausgrid DBYD Office (02) 4951 0899) www.ausgrid.com.au	
Have you notified Ausgrid as specified by NS 0156 and complied with requirements? Where an Ausgrid representative is required, two weeks notice is required before work commencing on site. Contact phone number for Transmission cable enquiries is (02) 4951 9200. For all other cases contact Ausgrid DBYD Office (02) 4951 0899.	
INSPECTION OF WORK BY Ausgrid's REPRESENTATIVE	
Is the Ausgrid representative on site for any work near or around any transmission cable before you start? (*Refer to NS 156.)	
For proposed work near or around cables other than transmission and/or conduits, are any requirements specified by Ausgrid's representative clearly understood and ready to be applied before you start the work? (*Refer to NS 156.)	
PROTECTION	
Check that all people on-site have been made aware of the presence and location of ALL Ausgrid underground cables and/or conduits, especially boring, drilling and trenching machine operators?	
Is there any asbestos or asbestos containing material in Ausgrid's underground network assets?	
Have you checked for the presence of any Organo-Chloride Pesticides (OCP) in transmission trenches?	
Is the site supervisor monitoring all machine operators working near or around Ausgrid's underground cables and/or conduits?	
Are the requirements specified by Ausgrid's representative being followed?	
Are Ausgrid's requirements in place for any exposed cables and/or conduits to be supported and protected?	
Have you marked all exposed underground cables and/or conduits with flags that are clearly visible from within all machinery used on-site?	
Have safety barriers, fencing or para-webbing been erected to protect staff and the public as well underground cables and/or conduits in areas that are at risk?	
Have safety barriers, fencing or para-webbing been erected to protect staff and the public as well underground cables and/or conduits in areas that are at risk?	

In the event of DAMAGE to Ausgrid's cable or conduits, call 13 13 88 immediately.

PROCEED with CAUTION

It is your responsibility to protect Ausgrid's cables and conduits from damage and your Duty of Care to protect your workers from harm or injury.

Signed: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Responsible person on site

For more information call 13 13 65 or visit www.ausgrid.com.au



Example – NS156 check sheet

What to do next

Ausgrid request that all ASPs take reasonable steps in reminding their employees of the hazards associated with working on or near Ausgrid's Network and requirements for following approved SWMS, Ausgrid Network Standards and Electrical Safety Rules. Please pass this information onto your staff via tool box talks and team briefs.

Ausgrid
Project Officers