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INCIDENT	A0/P4 Live underground cable strike
SUBJECT	Underground Services
INCIDENT DATE	16-12-2020
BUSINESS UNIT	FRL – Auckland South

WHAT HAPPENED?

A fencing contractor was coring a series of post holes adjacent to a live service trench with an auger attached to an excavator. Upon commencing the drilling of the third hole (ringed on the photo), the excavator operator noted little resistance to the auger and stopped, lifting the auger from the hole. The spotter noticed there was something in the ground. Thinking it was an offcut of reinforcement, he started clearing the clay around it by hand. It was at this point he noted it was in fact an electrical cable, the line of which is noted on the photograph. The cable had been damaged by the auger. There was no warning tape or fines and the depth was approximately 350mm.



Work was stopped, an exclusion zone was placed round the hole and the supervisor was contacted

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- FRL Working Near Underground Services Guidelines were not followed
- Contractor Task Analysis were not followed nor fit for purpose

WHAT ARE WE DOING DIFFERENTLY?

Element	Corrective Action
Supervision	FRL Supervisors to use guidelines and issue permits to dig. FRL Construction Managers to review and sign-off contractor task analysis.
Contractors	Meeting held with relevant contractors to explain expectations regarding guidelines. Contractors to co-ordinate with supervisors each time they intend breaking ground on site. Accurate as-built drawings to be kept on site and shared with FRL Supervisors. Contractor task analysis to be updated in line with underground services guidelines.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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