

Thameslink Programme

Health & Safety – Good Practice 013

Review of Permit to Dig Process at London Bridge Redevelopment

Overview/Description

Digging a hole can be a risky business. All sorts of pipes and cables lurk, out of sight waiting to catch the unwary worker. To mitigate this risk is the 'Permit to Dig' process. NR facilitated an improvement workshop with the Costain team to identify how this could be improved.

The actions highlighted from the workshop were:

- Appoint an owner of the process
- Refresh the Hazard Awareness Briefings for the team and the need to follow the process
- Reinforce the need for a survey when work is complete
- Keep the model up-to-date. (This model contains the record of all pipes and cables on site and provides a major part of the information supplied when a new permit is requested)
- Clarify the handover process between day & night shifts; eliminating multiple permits for a single task
- Ensure all forms can be related to their originating permit



Each mark represents one or more cables !

Benefits

This process enhances the requirements of existing NR requirement's by focusing on the practicalities of safely planning work in the vicinity of buried services'and has been made safer by:

- A named individual is now responsible
- Reminding the team of the dangers and how the process mitigates risk – to them.
- A survey on completion is incorporated into the model. This is used to keep it up to date. It will tell others about the plant that has been installed or at the least it will confirm the information issued with the permit was correct
- Night shift and day shift now have one copy of the permit; better communication; better continuity; less confusion
- A Permit to Dig contains a number of forms, if it gets dropped on site individual papers can now be referenced to the original permit
- The Safe Hand Digging process has been updated and incorporates an entirely new procedure that removes the operator from high risk tasks such as breaking concrete containing live power cables. This is achieved by using a remote controlled excavator.



A very shallow cable found - accidentally