

PIPELINES 2004 – NO DIG



AVOIDING DAMAGE TO BURIED SERVICES

Damage to third party equipment by contractors when undertaking excavation or general utility work is a substantial problem which has caused a number of deaths and injury as well as economic damage.

HSE INSPECTORS WILL EXPECT THAT

- Plans or other suitable information about the location of buried services in the area should be available before excavation starts
- Limitation of plans should be understood; the position of any services in or near the ground should be accurately located
- Excavation around services should be carefully carried out following safe digging practice and excavation
- If electric cable gas pipes are damaged they should be properly repaired and not covered up. Remember damage to a gas pipe may cause damage to connections or service pipes inside a building away from the point of damage.
- All excavations should be assessed for stability and appropriate support should be provided
 - Traffic management should be planned and instigated to protect road users and pedestrians and those doing the work

Further advice can be obtained from HSE guidance book HSG 47 Avoiding Danger from Underground Services

Free information is available from : HSE Infoline on 0845 345 0055 or the HSE website : www.hse.gov.uk.

Priced publications can be obtained from: HSE Books on Tel:01787 881165 or Fax: 01787 313995