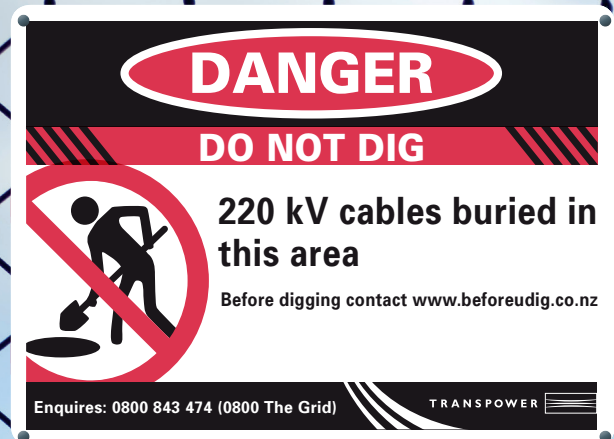


WORKING SAFELY AROUND TRANSPOWER'S UNDERGROUND NETWORKS



Are you planning to work near our underground electricity or communication networks?



For your safety there are a few things you must do **BEFORE YOU DIG.**

Whether digging on private or public property, working around high voltage electricity networks is dangerous.

Above all else, Transpower values the safety of its contractors, customers and the public.

This guide sets out what you must do and who to contact before you start work. It's simple and could save your life.

WHERE TO START?

Firstly, find out if there are any underground electricity cables and associated communication networks running under your proposed site by calling **0800 248 344** or going to **www.beforeudig.co.nz**

This is a quick and easy service which will provide:

- reference maps showing the location of Transpower's underground electricity and/or communications cables – although the maps are free, a charge may apply for urgent requests
- onsite advice and mark outs for work near underground electricity or communications cables.

The sooner you make contact the better, but allow at least:

- **TWO WORKING DAYS** for reference maps
- **TWO WORKING DAYS** for permits to work (more for large projects)
- **FOUR WORKING DAYS** for onsite advice and mark outs

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once you have received your reference maps you will need to:

- **MARK OUT THE LOCATION** of the underground cables on the worksite **BEFORE BREAKING GROUND.** Maps are a guide only and you should also use appropriate location technology. Transpower provides a free mark out service – see below for more information.
- **HAND DIG TO EXPOSE CABLES** – this method is the safest approach, and less likely to damage the cables. Any damage to a cable should be reported to Transpower immediately.

And remember to watch out for other services coming off a main – such as water pipes or telecom cables that may be in the vicinity of Transpower's cables.

DEPTH OF CABLES AND CABLE DUCTS

Our cables are buried at different depths varying from 400mm to 1500mm. Over time there may have been some changes to the ground cover which will have altered the depth of the cables.

As such we cannot give a guarantee of the exact depth of the cables – so hand digging and using appropriate location technology is very important.

Do not rely on finding buried marker tape as this may have shifted over time, and in some instances may not have been used (warning tape is not a legal requirement).

OUR MARK OUT SERVICES

We provide free electricity mark outs on request. One of our representatives will indicate the location of cables by marking the ground to provide a digging guide.

Please note: Mark outs are a guide only. It is your responsibility to identify hazards within your worksite and you must hand dig to confirm the location of all cables before you start work.

Please allow up to four working days for Transpower to arrange the mark out. All other mark outs for other underground services are your responsibility.

THE DANGERS

If you hit electricity cables there is risk of:

		
ELECTROCUTION	EXPLOSION	FIRE

At the moment of contact, a machine, tool or person is live at the same voltage as the cable. If an electricity cable is cut by an excavator anyone touching the machine could be electrocuted.

Electricity can also travel through the ground causing it to become live.

If you hit a communications cable there is risk of:

- eyesight damage, loss of eyesight from laser light, and injury from broken glass
- interruption of critical communication services
- loss of monitoring or control of a Transpower substation.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If you hit an electricity cable:

- Evacuate the area immediately – **EXCEPT** if you are in a machine in which case stay there.
- If you are at risk from another hazard such as fire and must leave the machine, jump well clear. Do not touch the machine and ground at the same time.
- Do not cover up a broken cable or try to fix it yourself.
- Call us immediately on **0800 The Grid (0800 843 474)** or call **111**.

YOUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES:

There are minimum safe work practices when working near electricity networks. To find out more read the Guide for Safety with Underground Services www.osh.govt.nz

There are also laws and regulations specifying safety working practices that must be followed:

- Electricity Act 1992 and amendments
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and amendments



SAFE DIGGING - REMEMBER

- Get reference maps before you start work.
- If our maps show electricity or communication cables you must locate them before you start.
- The location and depth of the cables may have changed due to earth movements.
- Watch out for other underground services such as water, gas, telecommunications
- Follow the MBIE's Underground Services – Guide for Safety with Underground Services (www.osh.govt.nz).

ABOUT US

Transpower is the state-owned enterprise that owns and operates the National Grid that carries electricity around New Zealand.

For more information about Transpower visit www.transpower.co.nz

Disclaimer

Transpower does not accept any liability for any information contained in this document.

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