



INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

A sub-contractor was grading a park using a mini-excavator to prep the site for installation of a parkette. The sub-contractor came across two signs and a pole. The pole was connected to a BC Hydro Panel. After discussing it with a City Coordinator it was decided that it was safe to remove the pole. However, the City Coordinator did not know that the pole was attached to a live BC Hydro low voltage power line. The sub-contractor began to move the pole until he realized it was still connected to an aboveground meter box. The job was stopped and BC Hydro was called to de-energize the pole. Fortunately the incident did not result in the release of hazardous energy.

HAZARD

Low voltage power is hazardous and could have seriously injured a worker.

CAUSE

Failure of City staff (Prime Contractor/Owner) to identify that the pole was connected to a power source and poor judgment to authorize the removal of the pole.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Perform a visual inspection when removing a pole to ensure it has no connections attached to it.
2. If there are connections still attached, do not remove the pole.
3. Call BC Hydro or an Electrical Inspector to provide advice and to ensure that the pole is not connected to live power.
4. The pole can be safely removed once it is confirmed that all live connections have been removed.