

# Hazard Alert!

**Near Miss  
Incident**

**Unsafe Contact  
with Buried  
Electrical Utility**



## INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

A Construction crew was connecting into an existing water system. Pre-job planning included the use of BC One Call, on site “as-builts” and an underground utility locator device. The crew had located only three Telus ducts. As the excavator was completing the stepping of the trench the bucket damaged an underground unexposed duct. There was no caution tape around the duct and no energy was released. A single wire was found inside the duct. It appeared to be undamaged but the duct needed repair.

The Crew was unable to identify what type of utility this was. They opened the lid of a near-by BC Hydro Vault. A nylon line had been used to cut and remove the crimped, broken sections of the duct. With the BC Hydro vault lid open, a worker in the trench shook the broken duct/conduit which moved a wire in the Hydro box. The crew realized that it was a BC Hydro utility they were dealing with, not a Telus one. The site foreman advised the crew to leave the utility and contacted BC Hydro. BC Hydro confirmed it was a live 14,000V BC hydro line.

## HAZARD

High Voltage power is hazardous and may have released which could have seriously or fatally injured the worker

## CAUSE

City staff cutting into and otherwise disturbing damaged conduits and opening BC Hydro High Voltage Vault.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Workers are not to cut into damaged conduit, shake damaged utilities or open BC Hydro High Voltage Vaults.
2. Contact BC Hydro or other utility owners for site evaluation and location determination if utility information is conflicting.
3. Crews are required to follow the City of Surrey written “Utility-accidental contact procedures”.
4. If a near miss incident occurs, immediately notify the Manager, Occ. Health & Safety.