



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 05

NEAR MISS – TRACK HOE CONTACTS 5 KV POWER CABLE

WHAT HAPPENED:

During the mechanical excavation of two 6" pipelines and a power cable, a 5 KV power cable tightened when contact was made with the track hoe bucket. The power cable was discovered through hydro excavation and inspection of the survey drawings indicated that the power cable followed a path adjacent to the pipeline. The contact location was determined to be outside of two foot (2') of the path of the pipeline underneath the backfill. After being contacted with the bucket of the track hoe, the cable shorted when manually moved by the ground disturbance supervisor.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The power cable was not identified as a significant hazard on the Critical Work Permit or Job Safety Analysis (JSA).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Identify Work Management Scope Changes: Finding an unexpected power cable while excavating may warrant a work scope change. Once found, work should be stopped and the power cable indicated on the critical work permit or JSA to prompt additional mitigation measures (e.g. De-energize, hydro-excavation);
- Standard for Excavating Power Cables: Develop an explicit procedure for exposing an underground power cable to be included in the procedures for ground disturbance;
- Never approach or touch a power cable after it has been contacted. Contact an electrician to de-energize before inspecting damage.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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Issued February 2012