



## A WORKER SUSPECTED DAMAGING THE ELECTRICITY CABLE IN A SITE AT LAU FAU SHAN AND CAUSED SEVERAL WORKERS INJURED

On 20 November 2023, a worker suspected damaging the underground electricity cable during a maintenance work at Lau Fau Shan, resulting in several workers being injured and sent to hospital for treatment, one of them was in critical condition. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

### Common Accidents

1. A live cable was inadvertently contacted and damaged in the course of excavation.
2. Failure to arrange the competent person to identify the alignment and depth profile of any underground electricity cables in the area and clearly marked on the ground.
3. Failure to provide necessary instructions and training to ensure that workers are familiar with the potential risks associated with the works near electricity supply line and the safe working procedures.
4. Failure to implement effective monitoring and supervision systems to ensure that workers strictly comply with relevant safety measures.



### Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to commencement of the works, obtain record drawings of underground utilities and appoint competent person to conduct detection of underground utilities.
2. Ascertain the location of underground utilities by hand-dug trial pits under the direct supervision of competent person.
3. Strictly follow the requirements as stipulated in the "Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Line" published by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department when carrying out excavation works near electricity supply line.
4. Develop and implement the "Permit-to-work" system to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are conducted and required safety measures are implemented before work, such as a competent person has marked the routing and depth of the underground utilities on ground surface, and briefed the site personnel regarding the contents of the survey report, related information and the necessary safety precautions.
5. Maintain the clearance from any underground electricity cables in accordance with the "Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Line" while using hand-held power tools or excavators nearby.
6. Protect underground utilities with suitable supports and post warning notices for alertness.
7. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

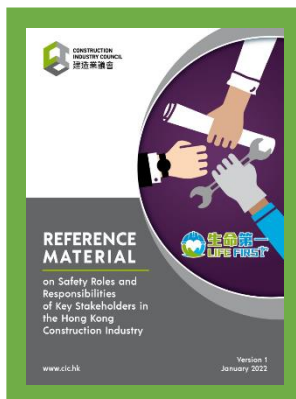


## SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

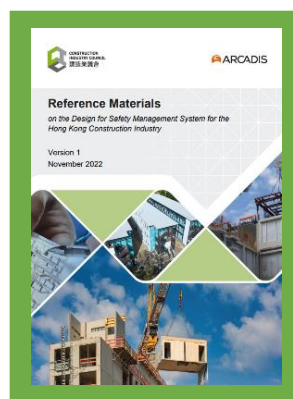
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce the works near underground electricity cables with use of hand-held power tools or excavators.
- During the construction stage, work team should plan, manage and monitor the works near underground electricity cables; and ensure that the alignment and depth profile of any underground electricity cables in the area as identified by the competent person are clearly marked on the ground.
- Work team must not begin works unless reasonable measures are taken to prevent using hand-held power tools or excavators directly over the marked alignments of an underground electricity cables as identified by the competent person.
- Workers should follow the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any uncertainty of underground utilities or any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors immediately.

### Reference information for sharing



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry



Reference Materials on the Design for Safety Management System for the Hong Kong Construction Industry



### Disclaimer

This message is not intended to constitute any professional advice on these or any other subjects. The CIC (including its members and employees) will not accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of or failure to use this message. For enquiries, please contact 2100 9000.