



**SUBJECT:** We've NOT struck gold!!

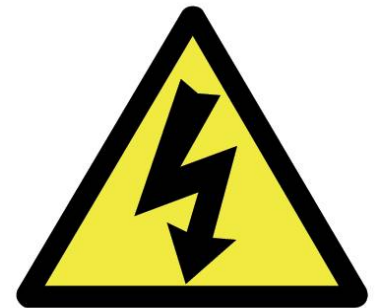
**RECIPIENTS:** All Council Services

**ISSUE DATE:** March 2017      **REF:** HSB78

## Company Fined £600k over 11,000v cable strike

A major infrastructure support services provider has been sentenced after one of its subcontracted workers was set on fire in May 2015 while replacing a traffic light pole in the City centre.

The employee, was working when he dug into a concrete box that shielded a live 11,000v cable, The Crown Court was told. He received an electric shock and his clothes caught fire. He sustained burns to his face, chest, arms, hands, legs and stomach.



The clients highway contractor had asked a sub-contractor to carry out the work. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the contractor had failed to provide the workers with enough information on the location of underground services in the area. Its supervision of the work was inadequate, the executive said. The contractor pleaded guilty to breaching reg 25(4) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, which states that construction work must not be carried out near an underground service until steps have been taken to mitigate the risks. The company was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £15,498.

After the hearing, HSE the inspector said: "This man suffered life changing injuries as a result of this incident. He's not been able to return to work, he still can't use his hands properly and has been left both physically and mentally scarred by what happened." HSG47 is clear about the steps that should be taken to avoid underground services. 11,000v systems are protected different to 33kv and do not trip so quick. So if one is hit the chances of an explosion, fire and injury are higher.

Further info:

[HSE – Electrical – underground cables](#)

[HSG47 – Avoiding danger from underground services](#)

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

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