

Incident Summary #II-1626282-2023 (#40757) (FINAL)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Incident Date	October 30, 2023	
	Location	Penticton	
	Regulated industry sector	Electrical - Low voltage electrical system (30V to 1000V)	
	Impact	Qty injuries	0
		Injury description	N/A
		Injury rating	None
	Damage	Damage description	The underground electrical cable was broken in half when hit by an excavator.
		Damage rating	Moderate
	Incident rating	Moderate	
Incident overview	During some landscaping and driveway alterations at a residential home, an underground electrical cable was contacted by the excavation equipment and broken.		
INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS	Site, system and components	When electrical cables are buried, they are to be bedded in sand and have a sand cover. During the concealment of the cable a caution tape is to be placed over the cable midway between the cable and the finished grade to alert any future workers who may be digging in the area that there are hazards below.	
	Failure scenario(s)	The cable installed below ground was installed without the burial tape/caution tape over top of the cable to prewarn of the hazardous cable in the dirt. The lack of burial tape above the cable did not allow for sufficient warning to either the excavator operator or the spotter working with the operator.	
	Facts and evidence	<p>Interview Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workers on site had called BC one call to determine the location of underground services. Gas lines were marked as well as telephone/Cable TV wiring. The cable is a privately owned cable and would not be locatable through BC One call. The electrical wiring that was damaged was located above the burial tape. No sandy bedding was installed around the electrical cable. When burial tape is not placed on top of the fill dirt and is floated in location during filling it is possible for the tape to slip out of place. 	
	Causes and contributing factors	<p>The incident was very likely caused by no burial tape being installed above the cable.</p> <p>Contributing factors to the incident include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The privately owned cable was not located identified during the BC One Call location of underground services. The contractor did not utilize any other means of identifying underground serviced prior to digging. There wasn't any bedding material around the cable that may have warned the spotter or excavator operator of a possible underground service while excavating. 	



Image 1 - Broken Cable.



Image 2 - Excavator Used for digging.



Image 3 – Location where cable was once joined.