

Sept 15

BLUE ELECTRIC CABLES

Background

Photo Identification

A T4 crew excavating on a network improvements project at Blyford Road, Lowestoft uncovered what appeared to be a standard blue water pipe in a position that the C.A.T and Genny had indicated they should find an electric cable.

Upon closer inspection the crew discovered that they had indeed located the 600/1000 volt Electric Cable, but rather than the cable being the expected standard black cable, it was in fact BLUE.

The Crew immediately informed their supervisor who documented and took photos of the cable to enable briefing of the find.



Information

UK Power Networks were contacted for information regarding the use of "Blue Electric Cables", they insisted that under no circumstances do they lay "Blue Cables", only black for Low Voltage and red for High Voltage. However a representative of UK Power Networks did state that private developments and independent contractors do not always adhere to the recommended industry standard utility colour coding, they believe that this cable was laid as a result of this. It is therefore very important that all crews excavating on or around the highways or new development sites are fully aware of the possibility's that they may come across similar situations.



Immediate Action Taken

Work was temporarily suspended
Supervisor was informed and attended site
Position of cable was recorded
Photographs were taken
UK Power Networks were contacted for information about this type of cable



What Are The Risks?

Communications/Notification

Misidentified utilities pose a threat of harm to the workforce as well as the public.
Loss of supply to residential and business properties.
Incorrect recording can result in unreliable historic records, creating potential future risks.

Information on this alert is to be briefed company wide on all contracts to all employees.
In addition this alert is to be supplied to all partners and clients.
For additional information Contact: David Thorndyke (Contracts Manager) 07564 112490