



STANTEC MOMENT

HSSE: Safety

Safe Digging Around Utilities – How designers can reduce risk



SaferTogether™

According to the UK Energy Networks Association, 354 workers suffered life changing injuries due to cable strikes between 2015 and 2020

As designers, Stantec can reduce risks to our construction and operational colleagues through provision of good utility information and design risk management.

Engage with the construction teams as early as possible. Seek to design out utility interface so far as is practicable.

Consider these points when assessing project utility information:

- Do we have good survey information, in line with the PAS 128 standard?
- Have we contacted the utility companies identified through LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD)?
- Have we assessed the impact of utilities on the design / site and recorded the risk?
- Have we identified utilities that pose a significant risk and developed an action plan following the principles of prevention?
- Have we re-visited the records and our survey plans as the design develops? Are there any missing survey areas or utilities?
- Cross-check the digitisation of utility records into GIS or CAD from the desktop records. Are the locations and utility labels accurate?
- Do the reconnaissance survey (site visit), utility detection survey and verification survey (trial holes) tie up with the utility records?
- Have we checked the recency of the plans or are they greater than 90 days old? Have we requested updated records as appropriate?