

the lines  
company

# Toolbox Talk

## Underground cable safety

When it comes to electrical safety, there is no room for error. With underground cables, workers need to be aware of them and any equipment that could make contact with them. It's vital to your safety to know proper safety practices.

Underground cable safety basics:

- With any work that involves excavating the ground make sure the area is clear of any utility services.
- **Before you dig locate any underground gas, power, water and communication services.**
- **Treat any underground cables as live.**
- Only operate excavating equipment if you are authorized and trained to do so.
- **If you are operating equipment that touches a live line, stay inside the vehicle.** Call us for help. Once we arrive, we'll tell you when it's safe to move.
- If a machine makes contact with an underground cable, stay away and do not allow anyone near the machine.

### beforeudig.co.nz

- To find underground cables running under the site call 0800 248 344 or go to [beforeudig.co.nz](http://beforeudig.co.nz)
- This service will provide you with reference maps showing the location of underground cables, onsite advice and line mark outs.
- If in doubt, stop!

### safety tips



Locate cables  
before digging



Treat underground  
power cables as live



Never make contact  
with a live line or cable

### More information

If you have any questions, please contact TLC  
[info@thelines.co.nz](mailto:info@thelines.co.nz)

keeping you  
connected

0800 367 546  
[thelinescompany.co.nz](http://thelinescompany.co.nz)

# Your safety is paramount



We believe it's important to ensure everyone is safe around electricity, making it home to their whānau safely each and every day.

Many accidental electrocutions occur even though the victim was paying close attention to potential hazards. Underground cables are often dug up unintentionally and unnecessarily – putting operators and contractors at risk. Electricity in underground cables could flow to and through the person to ground, causing them to be electrocuted.

## Task

Name five commonly performed tasks that could lead to accidental electrocution from underground cables.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Tips to avoid electrocution

- If in doubt, stop what you're doing.
- Take the time to locate any underground gas, power, water and communications cables before you dig.
- Always assume underground cables are live.

## Acknowledgement

I understand the information presented and the importance of following proper power line safety practices.

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

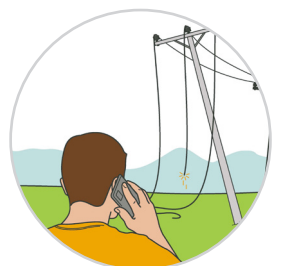
## safety tips



Watch out above



Stay 4m away from power lines



Treat downed lines or cables as live