

HAZARD ALERT

OVERHEAD CABLING

20 April 2021

REFERENCES:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19, 20, 21 & 27
 WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) – Regulations 34 – 38, 147, 163 & 166
 CSH&W SA Procedure (9) V3 – Electrical Procedure

OBJECTIVE:

To communicate a safety issue recently identified regarding overhead cabling at worksites and provide sites with recommendations to ensure hazards are identified, risks assessed, and effective control measures are developed and implemented.

BACKGROUND:

Recently an incident occurred where an overhead 240v electrical cable was struck by a truck accessing the area beneath the cabling. The cabling had been highlighted through the attachment of orange flags however this was not sufficient to stop the incident from occurring. This type of incident can result in disruption through interruption to the power supply, potentially having live wiring exposed, electric shock or electrocution.



Examples of overhead cabling/services above vehicle access areas

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Identify whether your site has any overhead cabling, this could include electrical, data or other services that are installed in areas where vehicles could access the area beneath the cabling/services.
- Undertake risk assessment to determine whether the cabling meets current standards, the need for the cabling, vehicle access and height requirements etc. (assistance from a licenced electrician regarding current standards will be required).
- As a result of the controls identified through risk assessment, you may consider the following:
 - Removing the overhead cabling/services if no longer required by a licensed electrician.
 - Undergrounding the overhead cabling/services by a licensed electrician.
 - Determine the height of any vehicles that may need to enter the area.
 - Permanently restrict access through fixed bollards if vehicles do not have to access the area below cabling/services.
 - Install removable bollards to restrict access of vehicles underneath overhead cabling/services.
 - Highlighting the overhead cabling/services.

For enquiries or further information please contact your WHS Consultant at CSHWSA