

Learning Alert 24-09 Burntwood STW – Service Strike

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

Incident Summary?

The site team were conducting trial holes in preparation for a pipe diversion in the new year, while conducting the works, the team uncovered an uncharted PVC pipe.

The works continued around the pipe. The team began to remove soil and started to remove some of the larger stones that were approximately 1mtr from the exposed pipework. There were more stones underneath these larger boulders which in turn caused the ground to move towards the pipe. The team then noticed that there was water coming from the pipework and it started to fill the excavation. Work was stopped and the area was made safe.

The site team then informed STW Ops and the project manager that was on site at the time.

A local repair was completed, and the pipe was encased in concrete as the site team were concerned about how brittle the pipework was.

The pipework is to be removed and diverted.

Photographs



Photo 1: Damaged PVC pipework



Photo 2: Large rocks uncovered in the excavation.

Root Causes

- No protection given to the exposed pipework, as mentioned in the ground disturbance work permit.

1	Are protective measures required to be taken to known/uncharted services?		
2	Have exposed services been adequately identified and supported?		
3	Have additional services been identified?		

Learnings – What do we need to do differently?

When uncharted services are discovered, the works in the area must be stopped and reassessed.

- Is the service live or redundant? If it is live, can it be isolated?
- Is the service critical to the site?
- What is the condition of the site?
- Can the service be supported and protected sufficiently?
- What are the ground conditions?
- Can the working area be moved?

Use the correct reporting methods as per site and company procedures.

- The MWHT accident and incident reporting procedure should be displayed
- Report all accidents and Incidents on ACTIVSHEQ.

Ensure that ground disturbance work permits are completed and in place for all breaking ground activities on site.

- All permit to work documents should be issued on an individual basis and not as a generic document.
- Ground disturbance permits should contain as much information as possible, all service drawings of the work area should be attached and highlighted information of the surrounding area used as a waypoint.
- Use hold points as above and include them in the RAMS if there is uncertainty about the area.

