Launch of an Industrial Best Practice Tool Kit in June 2014

A safe digging tool kit aims to reduce utility strikes.

Contractors, major clients and the HSE have launched a new best practice safety “tool kit” that aims to reduce the number of accidents caused by striking underground utilities and services when digging.

Following a serious incident in December 2012, when a worker suffered severe injuries during a relatively simple task around underground services, a working group was put together. This was made up of client, designer, contractor and utility service provider representatives from a range of sponsoring organisations, supported by the HSE, known as Utility Strike Avoidance Group.

Initial work identified that there was a wealth of good practice information available for site works; however there is a lack of both awareness and guidance.

A tool kit of guidance, concentrating on planning, design and communication has therefore been prepared. It will be made freely available to anyone who would benefit from it.

The launch event will also highlight tools to support the best practice tool kit including the HSE’s revised guidance:-

Avoiding Danger from Underground Services HSG47

It outlines a process called:-

ERIC - Eliminate, Reduce, Isolate and Control risk.

Paul Sheffield, chair of the working group, commented: “The injuries caused by the inadvertent striking of underground services and utilities can be devastating, even fatal. Importantly these strikes can be avoided, which is why we are calling on the industry to join us in pursuing a step change in safe digging, supported by the launch of this new tool kit.”

The guidance and materials that make up the Beyond Safe Digging tool kit are freely available to view and download at:

www.utilitystrikeavoidancegroup.org

If you require any further information or advice, please contact 4See Group on 01327 811166.