

Safety Alert

Embedded cable – drilling near-miss

What happened?

A contractor was drilling into a concrete wall in the power station when they made contact with an embedded lighting cable. No injury occurred and work was stopped until a scanner arrived. The drill used was double insulated, held a current test tag, and was used with an installed RCD.

What did we learn?

Although it was verbally communicated to the work party to not drill in line with any junction boxes, the older style junction box was not recognised by the workers. The use of scanning before drilling would likely have avoided this event occurring.

Bullet point lessons

- Scanning should be performed to identify embedded cables, particularly where no up to date drawings are available
- Ensure contractors are aware of the location of junction boxes and can recognise the older style (pictured).
- Importance of pre-works and communication with contractors by the site rep at daily toolboxes
- Follow guidelines contained in the [Cable and Services Work Practice](#) (M-Files ID 137335) when planning penetrations

