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Talk No: 39	Title: UNDERGROUND SERVICES
Introduction: There continue to be numerous injuries, and several fatalities, every year as a result of contact with underground services.	
Main points: ▪ Ensure that as much research as possible is carried out to identify underground services prior to any work commencing (existing plans, service authorities, etc). ▪ Clearly mark potential locations of underground services (route markers to be used). ▪ Employ safe digging techniques wherever underground services are suspected.	
Discussion points: ▪ Ensure all employees are aware of actions to be taken in event of discovering possible services. ▪ Follow concerned companies /authorities specifications while excavating or backfilling process. ▪ Beware when working with water mains; remember that water at high pressure can cause serious, and even fatal, injuries, and that a burst water pipe can fill an excavation very quickly. Contact the water services immediately if water pipes are damaged. ▪ Ladders should be provided for access/egress to excavations containing water pipes. ▪ Don't leave lengths of pipes unsupported, and don't drop tools/equipment onto exposed pipes. ▪ If you have to work in or near foul sewers, then wear PPE to protect against sewage, and wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. ▪ If any pipeline breaks, then evacuate the location as soon as possible ▪ Remember buried service ○ Electricity ○ Water ○ Gas ○ Telecommunications ○ Cable television etc. NO-ONE IS ACCIDENT PRONE – THEY'RE JUST POORLY PREPARED!	
Notes:	