



Amey fined £600k over 11,000v cable strike

This safety alert is for a construction company - planning of forestry work to avoid cable strike as it is a vital safety requirement.

Construction company Amey has been sentenced after one of its subcontracted workers was set on fire in May 2015 while replacing a traffic light pole in Gloucester city centre.

Steven Brown, 61, was working on Eastgate Street when he dug into a concrete box that shielded a live 11,000v cable, Gloucester Crown Court was told. He received an electric shock and his clothes caught fire. He sustained burns to his face, chest, arms, hands, legs and stomach.



The underground cabling. Image credit, HSE

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Amey had failed to provide the workers with enough information on the location of underground services in the area. Its supervision of the work was inadequate, the executive said.

Amey pleaded guilty to breaching reg 25(4) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, which states that construction work must not be carried out near an underground service until steps have been taken to mitigate the risks.

The company was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £15,498.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Helena Tinton said: "This man suffered life changing injuries as a result of this incident. He's not been able to return to work, he still can't use his hands properly and has been left both physically and mentally scarred by what happened."

As detailed in FISA Safety Guide 804, the Network Operator should be contacted well in advance of forestry works. The FWM must find the routes of all overhead powerlines and underground cables that cross or are near the worksite and access routes and confirm this by onsite inspection.