

# Safety and health alert

## 06/03 Concrete cutting results in electric shock to employee

---

### Incident

An employee was lucky to have survived an electric shock he received after severing electric cabling embedded in a concrete floor while operating a concrete cutting saw to install a drain.

### Factors

- The possibility of potentially dangerous services such as water, gas and electricity being located within an area of masonry to be removed or cut.

### Recommendations

- Prior to cutting any area of masonry, reference should be made to the original drawings of the services.
- A search should be conducted for "as built" drawings that show the actual location of services, in the event of a change in location during installation.
- If services appear to be close to the proposed location of cuts to be made in the masonry, specialist equipment should be employed to accurately determine the position of the services to eliminate the possibility of them being cut. If specialist equipment determines the services to be in locations other than those shown on the drawings, "as built" drawings showing the actual location should be prepared and cross referenced to the original drawings (see regulation 3.21).

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

A412467

Date: April 2003

