

ESB issued a “Stop Work Notice”

Document No: IW-HSQE-SA-07

Revision:1.00

Approved By: Claire Lyons

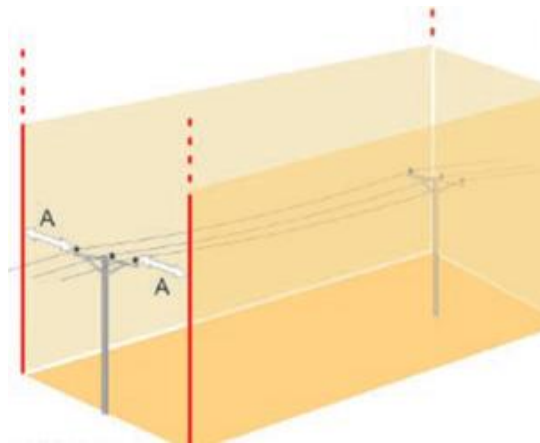
Effective Date: 18/8/2017

1. What Happened?

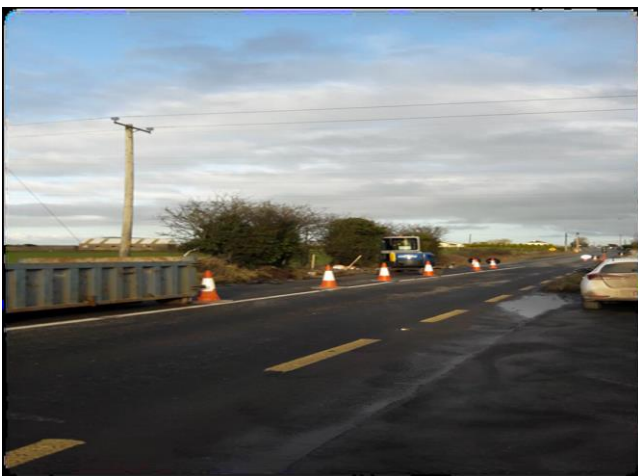
ESB issued a “**Stop Work Notice**” to a utilities contractor that was working in close proximity to overhead electricity lines without an adequate Safe System of Work in place.

The Contractor was stripping the road surface using a rubber duck; the works was taking place in the “Hazard Zone” of Overhead Electricity Lines.

*The **Hazard Zone** is defined in the “Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines” as an area in the vicinity of an overhead electricity line which must normally be isolated from the work site by the use of physical barriers, in order to minimise the risk of accidental contact or near contact with the overhead line by plant, equipment, scaffolding or other materials while carrying out construction work.*



The contractor failed to comply with requirements set out in the “Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines” **to carry out work** in the “Hazard Zone” of Overhead Electricity Lines. See *Photo below of the work area in the Hazard Zone of Overhead Electricity Lines:*



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2. Immediate Actions

- Works on site ceased and ESB communicated the failings to the site supervisor.
- A safety stand down was held with all site personnel on site to communicate the failings and the corrective actions required to be put in place for works to proceed.

3. Further Actions

- Verify the voltage of the line by consulting ESB, demarcate the Hazard and Exclusion Zones as defined in the Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines, to include **height restricted Goalposts and Danger Warning Signs**.
- Prepare a **Site Specific Method Statement, Risk Assessment and Site Safety Plan** detailing the exact site setup for the Hazard Zones and Exclusion Zones. All site personnel to be briefed on the content of the site specific documentation.
- A competent person must be appointed as a **PICW (Person in charge of work)**, to supervise the works.
- A daily **permit to work** must be in operation for all works that are carried out in the demarcated Hazard Zone. This permit must be issued by the PICW. The permit must be subject to all control measures outlined on the Method Statement, Risk Assessment and Site Safety Plan.
- Work equipment, such as excavators, must be operated with certified mechanical, electronic or electromechanical **limiters** to prevent any part of the equipment breaching the relevant Exclusion Zone.
- A **dedicated observer (Spotter)** must be in place for each item of plant and equipment. The dedicated observer must be in communication with the machine operator at all times

SAFETY ALERT

worksafe
homesafe



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and must not undertake any other work activity while work in the Hazard Zone is in progress.

4. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

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5. Distribution list

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>
Asset Management <input type="checkbox"/>	All IW staff <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Framework Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		