

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Arc Flash

While removing concrete from a project area with an excavator, a contractor accidentally struck a buried electrical conduit and rebar causing an arc flash at the breaker cabinet and transformer.

Fortunately, no injuries occurred. Work was suspended to investigate and establish new safety protocols and expectations.

The contractor's safety policy was revised to prohibit work near energized or pressurized underground lines/pipes until a safe work plan was put in place.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Establish a "no-go zone" around energized lines per utility guidelines (e.g., OSHA's approach limits). Ensure all personnel and machinery stay well outside the zone.
- Coordinate with utility providers to de-energize services near demolition activities when possible.
- Require mill team approval for all high-hazard (Red JHA) contractor work before work begins.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Before digging, locate, identify and clearly mark all utilities. Prioritize de-energizing systems, rerouting wiring and marking hazardous areas before work begins.

If pipe locations are unknown, use hand digging or hydro excavating to prevent pipe damage.

