

# Media Release



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## **CITIPower URGES WORKERS TO DIAL BEFORE THEY DIG**

CitiPower is urging tradespeople undertaking excavating work to take extra care when operating near underground electrical assets. This follows two serious incidents in CitiPower's network area in two days this week, where a plumber and a labourer were lucky to survive after contacting electrical cables.

Both men were using hand tools when they hit underground power supplies while working in the inner city suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood.

In both incidents the workers were unaware that their activities were taking place within close proximity to underground power lines. One of the men sustained a mild electric shock, but fortunately neither of them were seriously injured.

CitiPower Regional Asset manager, Joe Mravljak, said anyone undertaking any excavation work should consider the location of underground electrical assets and consult the 'Dial Before You Dig' service before starting work.

"There is an obvious safety risk associated with making contact with underground power cables while undertaking these kinds of works. Workers must be vigilant about their personal safety because incidents like these have the potential to cause serious injury, or even be fatal," he said.

Damage to electricity cables can also disrupt the power services, inconveniencing homes and businesses by leaving them without electricity.

Aside from the obvious safety risks there can be serious financial implications for workers who dig up underground cables. If an individual or business is found to have negligently caused damage they can face hefty fines and penalties.

Even electrical incidents which do not cause injury can still require work to be stopped while safety procedures are followed, causing time and financial losses for business.

Dial Before You Dig is Australia's national referral service for information on underground pipes and cables, and provides details about the location of these assets. Their objective is to ensure the protection of Australia's underground assets, while ensuring the safety of people undertaking excavation works.

Permits to work in the vicinity of CitiPower assets can be applied for online at [www.citipower.com.au](http://www.citipower.com.au) via the "contractors and suppliers" icon.

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People wanting further information about the location of underground utility services should check with the nation-wide *Dial Before You Dig* service on 1100 or log onto [www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au) or phone CitiPower for general electrical safety advice on 1300 301 101.

**Media inquiries: CitiPower's 24-hour media service on (03) 9683 4342.**