



SIARAN AKHBAR

PRESS STATEMENT

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CONTRACTORS URGED TO CONTACT TNB BEFORE DIGGING WORKS

Contractors doing earth digging works are urged to contact Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) to get advice and maps which show the locations of its networks of underground cables.

The dangers of hitting underground electricity cables can be avoided if contractors take precautionary measures including contacting TNB before undertaking work that involves penetrating the ground at or below surface level.

On many occasions, power cables had been damaged by activities such as the following:

- 1) digging trenches to lay pipes or cables;
- 2) excavation (removing earth to change ground levels or dig a foundation for a building or other structure to be built);
- 3) horizontal directional drilling (drilling that is precisely directed over a long path using different methods), and
- 4) sheet piling (a wall of connected steel sheets that are driven into the ground to provide support to structures, prevent flooding and so on).

Damaged electricity cables can cause electric shock or electrocution that can lead to fatal injuries, explosion, fire or flames and hence, losses to several parties.

A faulty underground electricity cable can also cause power supply disruption to the surrounding area, affect business operations, cause traffic jams and inconvenience to the public. A more serious consequence could be disruption to emergency services like hospitals.

So far this year, more than 43,000 TNB customers had been affected by power outages owing to road digging work throughout the peninsula. In the first 10 months of this year, power was down 464 times due to digging.

Thus, contractors are urged to contact at the nearest TNB offices in advance prior to any earth digging, especially in areas near or suspected to be near to underground electricity cables.

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