

# Safety Alert

## SA 18-298 Services Strikes Campaign

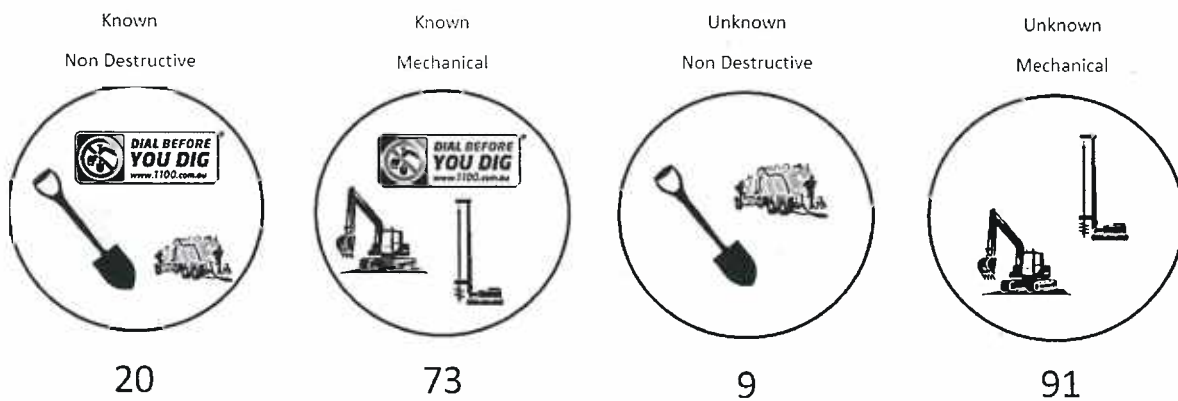
	<p><b>Audience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TfNSW Infrastructure &amp; Services Division and contractors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact:</b></p> <p>Graham Jackson, Director Safety 9422 5450</p> <p>Kylie Mills, Associate Director Safety Services 0417663018</p>
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### Background

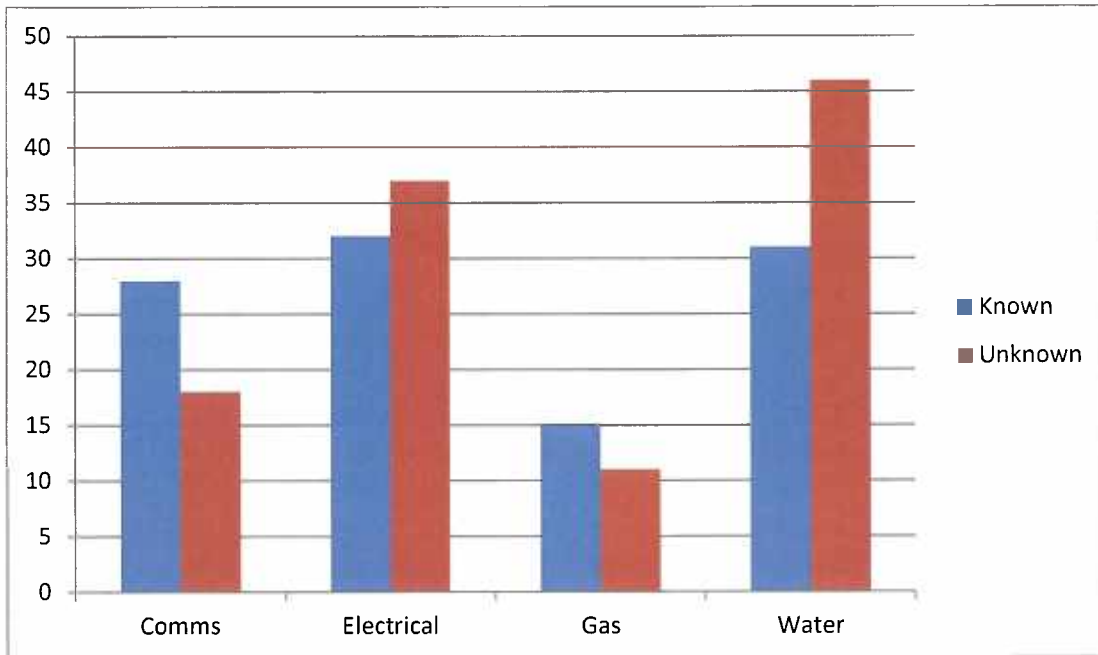
TfNSW Infrastructure and Services have multiple major projects currently being undertaken by contractors. Statistics are showing a high rate of underground utility strikes on both known and unknown services. These are across water, power, gas and communications and are being struck by both mechanical and (NDD) non-destructive digging methods.

Over the past year, there have been 231 service strikes across the Infrastructure and Services projects portfolio. Of most concern are the strikes on electrical and gas services that have potential for immediate safety impacts and to seriously harm workers.

An analysis of both known and unknown services being struck by both mechanical and NDD methods shows that 20 known services were struck/damaged by NDD means with the highest number of strikes (91) were made on unknown services by mechanical means. This highlights the need for a detailed **potholing** plan and verification of services, both known and unknown prior to commencing mechanical excavation.



See below detailed analysis of the 231 service strikes recorded.  
Note the high strike rates for Communications, Electrical, Gas and particularly water.



TfNSW requests that all our contractors undertaking any form of excavation and evaluate their safety management systems against the means listed below and provide a written response to the Principal's Representative:

**Suggested Actions Required:**

1. Adherence to Utilities Management Plan
2. DBYD documentation current & followed
3. NDD (Non Destructive Digging Techniques) used as required
4. Immediate review of pot holing plan
5. Utility owner stakeholder engagement
6. Review of TfNSW 'Working Near Utilities' if mandated in contract
7. Sub-contractor consultation on utilities management
8. Tool Box talk all staff with underground utilities focus

TfNSW Safety Services and Project Management teams are currently working with our business partners and stakeholders on the above initiative of 'towards zero strike rate'.

**Issued and authorised by the Director Safety Infrastructure Services**

Signature 

Name: Graham Jackson, Director Safety & Engineering Systems  
 Dated: 6 July 2018