



Utility Clearance Reminder

Be reminded to make sure utilities are cleared before drilling.

Worker severely burned at rock quarry

14 September 2006

(FLOWERY BRANCH, Georgia) - A worker at a Rock Quarry was severely burned Wednesday afternoon when he drilled into an underground electrical wire.

"He drilled into an energized wire. When you drill into something like that there is a severe arcing and a flash, and the flash is what burned him," said Hall County Fire Chief David Kimbrell, "Second and third degree burns to an estimated 28% of his body.

Emergency services transported the victim by ambulance directly to the burn unit at Grady Hospital in Atlanta where he is undergoing treatment.

"After we made contact with medical control here and let them know the situation, they cleared us to go straight to Grady," said Kimbrell, "Usually the first 24 to 48 hours are the most critical. They can get him assessed and get antibiotics going to keep the infection down."

The one-call service may not be enough; a private utility service or vacuum extraction may be needed, depending on the site.

Knowing what is underground before you dig or drill can save a life.

In addition to checking for underground utilities, don't forget to look up. Overhead utilities can be just as dangerous.

For more information, you can read [Utility Clearances and Isolation](#) found on the HSE Website.

If you have additional questions please see your Office HSE Representative or Regional HSE Manager.