Before commencement of works, take all reasonable precautions.

1. Obtain information and plans of the underground electricity cables/pipes from the electricity supplier / gas company.
2. Appoint a competent person (approved by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services) to identify the location and depth of underground electricity cables / gas pipes, the contractor / sub-contractor and person actually carrying out the works is responsible for ensuring underground electricity cables / gas pipes are isolated before works begin.
3. For locating the underground electricity cables, it is required to carry out cable detection and identify the location. Bubble tubes should be dug up under the supervision of a competent person to expose the underground electricity cables. Therefore, carry out internal active cable detection to ascertain the position of the underground electricity cables. After that, provide site personnel with the “Competent Person Report” and arrange site briefing to reiterate the contents of the report and the safety precautions to site personnel.
4. For locating underground gas pipes, contractor must ensure that the information obtained is passed to the person actually carrying out the works and that he understands what safety precautions are required. Pipe location should only be used by experienced people who have receive specific training on how to use them. They are used to check the accuracy of the record plans provided by the gas supply company, and that tools are easy to confirm the positions of gas pipes, and that the location and depth of underground electricity cables are correctly identified.

The electricity legislation division and gas authority have prepared “Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines” and “Code of Practice on Avoiding Danger from Gas Pipes” respectively. Those Codes of Practice set standards for carrying out works near electricity supply lines and gas pipes, and for consultation between people proposing to carry out works and the electricity supply/gas pipeline companies. Those Codes of Practice can be found at the Publications Section of the Information Services Department or accessed free of charge via EMSD’s homepage at http://www.emsd.gov.hk.

In the course of works, take reasonable measures including:

1. Maintaining adequate safety clearance from underground electricity cables or gas pipes during excavation;
2. Provide proper support to any underground electricity cables or gas pipes exposed in an excavation and provide proper barrier where appropriate; and
3. Buried pipes may be blocked similar to other works making them difficult to identify. If you are not sure what a pipe is, always assume that it is live and that it may be hazardous until the appropriate utility company has advised otherwise.

Any person who contravenes the electricity supply line (protection) regulation or the gas safety (gas supply) regulation is liable on conviction to a fine of $200,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months.
Introduction

Works contractor shall cut out works, such as water works, drainage works, fire services works, telecommunication cabling works, landscape works, or road resurfacing works etc. near underground electricity cables or gas pipes involving excavation or any other means of penetrating the ground at or below surface level must may damage the underground electricity cables or gas pipes if safety precautions have not been taken. Damaging underground electricity cables may cause electrical accidents and power interruption; damaging underground gas pipes may lead to gas leaks, fires or explosions. Any damage to the works or the general public, Damage to the electricity cables or gas mains may also seriously disrupt electricity and gas supplies to the local community, causing great inconvenience to the general public.

To prevent caustic insulators, the electricity supply line/protected regulation made under the Electricity Ordinance (Cap. 400) and Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51) requires that, prior to carrying out works in the vicinity of underground electricity cables owned by electricity suppliers, or underground gas pipes, certain information relating to them should be obtained by the works contractors and all reasonable steps should be taken to ascertain the existence of these electricity cables or gas pipes. In the course of works, all reasonable measures should also be taken to protect these cables or gas pipes from damage.

Preconstruction Procedure

1. The electricity supply company, when carrying out any underground work in the vicinity of the electricity supply line/protected, must, prior to carrying out works in the vicinity of underground electricity cables owned by electricity suppliers, or underground gas pipes, obtain certain information relating to the existence of these cables or gas pipes. In the course of works, all reasonable measures should also be taken to protect these cables or gas pipes from damage.

2. The electricity supply company, when carrying out any underground work in the vicinity of underground electricity cables owned by electricity suppliers, or underground gas pipes, the works contractor and all reasonable steps should be taken to ascertain the existence of these electricity cables or gas pipes. In the course of works, all reasonable measures should also be taken to protect these cables or gas pipes from damage.