

Lessons Learned



Date: July 15, 2020

Region: Seattle

Project: Microsoft Campus Refresh

Title: Excavator Bumps Stair Tower

Summary

Operator for an excavating subcontractor was trenching for footing drains with a mini excavator below a stair tower. While trenching, the bucket of the excavator contacted a post on the bottom of the stair tower. Another trade employee was walking up the stair tower at the moment of contact, but immediately exited the tower. The tower was immediately red tagged for inspection.

A spotter was in place at the time of the excavation



What Went Right?

- Spotter was in place at the time of the excavation
- Proper communications in place to shut down stair tower immediately

What Went Wrong?

- All cords and other obstacles should be removed
- Hand Dig around active stair towers, shut down stair towers when possible
- Glass Fog

Lessons Learned

- **Prior to trenching, set the dig up for success. Give the operator as much room as possible, anything that can be removed from the area should be removed.**
- **Test out different masks, glasses, and anti-fogs to find what works for each person. Don't work with limited visibility.**
- **Inspect site for any hazardous areas that need to be hand dug, not just around utilities.**