

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



HV Cable Strike - Updated bulletin

Ref: WDSER01OCT01

Date of Issue: 1 October 2019

Location: Clock House

Overview

An alert was issued on 26 September regarding a contractor working on behalf of South East Works Delivery, who was carrying out the installation of lineside fencing and struck a live 11Kv UKPN cable.

The IP received burns to his hands and is receiving ongoing medical treatment via outpatient care for the injuries sustained.

The incident is part of an ongoing investigation between Works Delivery and the Principal Contractor; both parties are also working in collaboration with the ORR.

Discussion points:

- What procedures are in place for removal, mitigation and/or management of the risks of works in relation to buried and hidden services at the planning stages?
- Do you undertake sufficient checks to understand the cables and type of services which are present on site? i.e. desktop survey, site investigation, physical identification (trial holes and/or tracking devices etc)?
- How is the buried or hidden services information verified prior to works starting and how are pre-work site visits & surveys implemented to understand all risks prior to works commencing?
- Do you seek the services of high voltage (HV) Assessors and HV Competent personnel when working near Network Rail HV Cables- do you know when HV assessment is required?
- Are work plans and methodologies authorised by a competent engineer prior to works commencing?
- If you are working near third party HV cables, have you contacted the owners and gained approval and/or agreed methodology to understand the risks?
- How are delivery teams made aware of the dangers of buried and hidden services in the work area?
- Are teams fully briefed and inducted to locations to ensure full understanding of risks, controls and mitigations in place?
- How do you ensure those operating cable avoidance scanning with approved tools are trained and competent to do so and that the tool is suitable for the environment it is being used in?
- How do we decide the limitations of scanning with typical cable avoidance tools, such as RD400, tag and trace, ground probing radar etc?
- Do you ensure that all cable avoidance tools and other equipment are calibrated and shown to be in date certified?
- Guidance on working near and/or above HV cables can be found within NR/L3/ELP/22001 and near buried services within NR/L2/INI/CP1030. Overall guidance can be found within HSE booklet HS(G) 47, which can be downloaded free from HSE website
- Do your teams know how to challenge when something on site doesn't feel safe?

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