

Unsafe Cable Cutting

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| Authorised by: | James Dobson | Date: August 2016 |
| Distribution: | eight ₂ O and Contractors - TW Health & Safety Hub | |



What Happened?

An eight₂O contract identified the exposed end of an HV Cable as part of a routine excavation. The area was immediately quarantined and pedestrian barriers were used to prevent people accessing the area.

The site team engaged the Thames Water HV team and requested them to visit site and make the cable safe.

The HV Team attended site 10 days later and identified that the HV service had been cut without authorisation or formally proving dead.

Why did it happen?

The incident is still under investigation.

What can we do to prevent it from happening again?

- Cables should never be cut without the authorisation of a competent person following the eight₂O Electrical Safety Rules.
- Before commencing any work involving the cutting into any electric cable, the cable shall be positively identified and marked by a Competent Person. This shall be carried out in the presence of the Authorised Person.
- The cable shall be identified at the point of work either by physically tracing it along its length to a point of secure isolation, or to the end connected to electrical equipment. Alternative means of identification may be adopted but only with the agreement of the Authorised Person.
- All high-voltage cables shall be under supervision of the Thames Water, Controlling Authority or specialist contractor.
- Cable spiking should be considered as a last resort and shall be documented by a specific safe system of work. The spiking operation shall be carried out by a Competent Person in the presence of an Authorised Person. Cable spiking is not to be used as a secure means of isolation.
- All other cables in the vicinity of the point of work shall be assumed to be live and marked with danger signs.

HL01F05 – SHE Lessons Learned



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