SHE ALERT LV Cable Flashover





we don't do it

Date of incident which is raised in days	07/05/2024		Directorate	SEPD	
Region	Wessex	Location	Salisbury	Classification	PTBW
What happened ?					

A faults team had isolated a section of network in order to replace a faulty pole box. The cable jointer had opened the cable at the bottom of the pole but found that it was too wet to joint, the cable then ran underneath a hedgerow, so the team excavated on the other side of the hedgerow and found a cable. The assumption was made that it was the same cable and the jointer then cut into a live Low Voltage main with a reciprocating saw. The street lighting core of the cable was damaged, resulting in rupture of the controlling fuse.

A full investigation is underway and learnings will be shared accordingly.

Section 10.1 of the operational safety manual states:

Live working techniques Shall be used on Low Voltage underground cables even if the Conductors have been made Dead and Isolated. This approach is necessary because of the complexity and connectivity of the Low Voltage underground System, and to manage the risks associated with uncontrolled or inadvertent energisation of Conductors.





SHE BRIEF LV Cable Flashover





PR-NET-OSM-066

Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

A faults team had isolated a section of network to replace a faulty Low voltage pole termination. The cable jointer had opened the cable at the bottom of the pole but then found that it was too wet to joint., the cable then ran under a hedgerow so the team then excavated on the other side of the hedgerow and found a cable. The assumption was made that it was the same cable and then the Jointer cut into a live Low Voltage main with a reciprocating saw. The street lighting core of the cable was damaged, resulting in rupture of the controlling fuse. The cable was subsequently isolated, and repairs were carried out.

Key learning points;

- If there is a change to your planned task, make sure that you revisit your Risk Assessment and highlight any new potential risks.
- Unless you can physically trace a cable from a point of isolation where it has been proven dead, live working techniques shall always be employed.
- Reciprocating saws should only ever be used in the case of the above statement or on LV cables that have never been connected to the network or for dead HV working.
- Always check your drawings to fully understand what cables or other utilities are in the ground and where they are. All cables in the vicinity need to be exposed to correctly identify the cable to be worked on.
- If you see one of your colleagues doing an unsafe act, challenge them. You may be saving them from an injury or worse. From our Safety Family statement We take care of ourselves, each other and our environment.
- Make sure that you are familiar with PR-NET-OSM-066? OSM section 10.1.

If it's not safe, we don't do it.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK ON THE LOW VOLTAGE SYSTEM

OPERATIONAL SAFETY MANUAL - SECTION 10.1







