

Issued to:  
Location:

## **SAFETY BULLETIN SB5/2018**

### **Live 11kV Cable Opened in Error**

#### **Background**

A jointing team were verbally instructed to connect a new 185mm Wavecon main to an existing 0.4Cu 4 core LV cable. The team had not been issued with Project Risk Register as required by HS9A or issued with a Work Instruction. The team had been issued with a copy of a colour construction plan showing the presence of a 0.06Cu HV cable running adjacent to the LV cable and a joint hole had been excavated by the contractors, exposing only one cable.

#### **Detail**

Using live working techniques the jointer began opening the single exposed cable, assuming it to be the LV cable. After removing the lead sheath and starting to remove the papers he became suspicious that the cable was in fact HV. The jointer stopped work before any further incident occurred and called the office for assistance but then re-entered the joint pit and proceeded to shroud the Live HV cable.

#### **What went wrong?**

The cable to be worked on was not positively identified as the LV cable, as is required by ST:OS4. It was assumed that the exposed cable was the LV cable when in fact it was a HV cable. Once the jointer suspected that the cable was HV the area should have been immediately vacated and secured until the HV cable was made safe (DIESIR.)

#### **Actions**

- Clear instruction shall be given to dig & lay contractors so that sufficient ground is excavated to enable the correct cable identification.
- For planned works all teams must be issued with a written work instruction clarifying the extent of the work to be undertaken.
- The WPD person controlling construction should ensure that any risk information available is passed via a project risk register to the WPD staff/ Contractor who is to carry out the work, so it can be taken into account during job preparation and/ or when on-site risk assessment is completed (ST:HS9A sections 3.2, 4.2.1&4.2.3)
- Before starting work on any LV cable, the cable shall be positively identified in accordance with ST: OS4A/2 – Relating to the identification and proving dead of underground cables.
- Positive visual indication that a cable is LV shall be from one or more of the following.
  - a) The presence of an identified LV joint on the cable
  - b) Presence of a black PVC oversheath clearly embossed 600/1000V
  - c) All other cables on site having been exposed and positively identified
- Where positive visual identification of the cable is not possible other techniques such as the use of a WPD approved LV cable identification tool, electrical injection or spiking may be required.
- If the cable is suspected to be HV then the staff should vacate the joint hole and secure the area to ensure no-one approaches the cable until it is made safe.
- If there is any doubt around any cable identification, work must stop immediately and advice sought.

#### **Follow-Up Actions**

- TMs shall personally brief relevant staff. They should also note SB2/2015 where a similar incident occurred. This bulletin shall be briefed and recorded on personal records as TBX86.