

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Cable Drum Trailer Failure - M32

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

Ref: Safety Alert NRX 19-01

Date: 17/01/2019

Location: M32 - Bristol

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Overview

On 13 January 2019 at 22.00, a cable drum was reported to have fallen onto the M32 (Bristol) motorway. The incident caused severe traffic disruption but fortunately no reported injury to road users. The cable drum (circa 1 ton) was recovered by the Highways Agency.

The business owner of the cable was established when a Network Rail E&P driver subsequently reported to control (from Gloucester) they had lost a drum of cable from the trailer of their vehicle.

All must ensure that trailer inspection and test records are in date.

No cable trailer should depend solely on hydraulic pressure to retain the load securely.

The initial investigation has established hydraulic failure on one of the lifting jacks. This caused the load to become unsecure, come into contact with the road and roll off the trailer.

All inspection and test records for the trailer were reported to be in order, however subsequent reviews show the trailer (blue) does not have a safety back bar as included on newer trailers (yellow). These bars prevent roll off risk as cable drums would remain within the trailer frame.

All cable carrying trailers that are vulnerable to single point failure must be removed from use immediately.