

Environmental Health & Safety Bulletin

Signalling Recoveries on Operational Infrastructure



Thameslink Nov '11



Water Orton May '12



Oxley Nov '10



GNGE Nov '14

- **8** Incidents of incorrect (over recovery) or live cable recovery during major signalling commissioning activity.
- Each incident having the potential for serious harm and disruption to the operational railway.
- **ALL** could have been avoided by correct planning, care during preparation, and by working to correct procedures.

Critical Lessons/Actions	
1	Where recoveries are to be staged ensure staging plan and marking of equipment are clear and understood by all.
2	In complex recovery areas where some equipment is to be retained this should be positively identified (in red).
3	Identify ALL power supplies and power sources for disconnection (Signalling, Telecoms, DNO, Batteries etc.) at each location.
4	Ensure isolations are verified by testing prior to marking equipment as isolated or issue of permits.
5	Always work carefully and methodically, avoid rushing , only cut cables that you can trace to a marked (green) end or to the last cut.
6	Use correct tools for cutting cables, although hand held disc cutters are widely used during recovery operations they are not appropriate for this task, and risk injury or unintended damage to other equipment.
7	Before recovering a location case , open the doors and ensure ALL cables into and out of the location have been cut .
8	In areas where cables are not traceable e.g. buried, collapsed UTX/URX or tangled, suspend recoveries until a methodology and strategy has been agreed, (do not deviate from 5 above.)

If in any doubt about a recovery – stop and ask!

Display on notice boards and brief to: -

- No brief required
- All employees
- Managers only
- Disciplines affected
- Sub-contractors
- Partners
- Signed attendance sheets required