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Issued By: Thameslink Programme, HSEA Team, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS

Issue Number: TLP 019

Title: London Bridge Station Redevelopment, Operational signalling cable cut (5th Feb '14)

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Overview of Event:

Whilst undertaking cable removal and recovery works at London Bridge Station, an operational 10 core signalling cable was cut by a member of the electrical team undertaking the works.

The cable was repaired by competent contractors on site and tested back into service by the Network Rail Maintenance S&T fault team.

Photos of the Site:



The switch room is located behind the hoarding

Ducting running through platform wall



Trackside cables running into switch room through ducting

Underlying Causes:

The electrician made a mistake in cutting a live operational cable. Contributory factors include:-

- **Lack of familiarity** with process for marking of redundant cables – the electrician was new to the project and was not familiar with the laid down process for the labelling of redundant cables as this is specific to the project
- **Task briefing and permits** did not note the marking of redundant cables and did not reference cable removal works. No permit to enter the switch room was issued.
- **Communication** - Whilst a briefing was undertaken prior to the works it is believed that the brief may have confused the electrician as to what cables needed to be removed.

Other lesson learnt:

- **Cable Marking** – A process of green ending was in use by two different contractors. To one it meant cables were isolated, to the other it meant cables were ready for recovery (not necessarily isolated)

Key Messages:

- Make sure the required permit arrangements are in place and contain the necessary control measures required to undertake the work safely.
- Where cables / services have been identified for removal, check whether they have they been isolated and clearly marked up as being ready for removal (check process for doing this aligns with other processes potentially in use by others at the same location).
- Make sure that all the necessary personnel have been briefed on the risks and control measures for the activity, and had their understanding checked with regards to the task.
- Check that suitable management and site response arrangements are in place for reacting to unplanned damage or fault conditions occurring with operational assets, power supplies and safety critical equipment