

# Shared Learning

**The Thameslink Programme** Issue Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 - For further info contact [mike.netherton@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:mike.netherton@networkrail.co.uk)

**Issue Number: TLP 059 Title: 650v Energised Cable Cut – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

## Overview of Event:

During the recovery of redundant cables along the North wall adjacent to Platform 1 at London Bridge Station, a 650v energised cable was cut in error. The error was not realised until the COSS, via the construction teams, asked the Signaller to check the signalling equipment through Platform 1 - this is standard practice after cable recoveries.

The cable was cut, using insulated hydraulic cutters, which immediately blew a fuse and it appears the team were not aware it was live. There were no injuries however there was a high potential of significant injury.

The cable was fixed during the night but led to some minor delays and train cancellations.

## Underlying Causes:

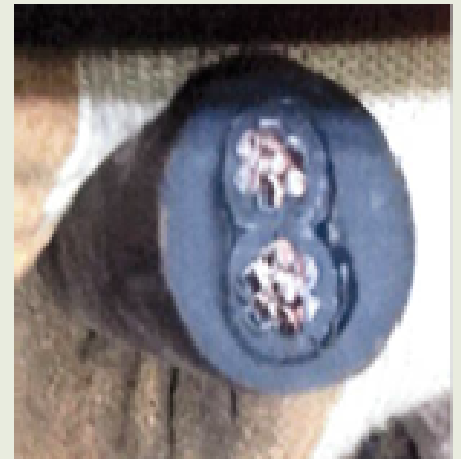
- The cables were bunched together for cutting rather than moved singularly from the route before cutting
- Task lighting was not sufficient to carry out the task
- An appointed competent person was not on site to oversee the work
- The Task Briefing did not include the use of a 'ring' or 'sling' to run down the cable for identification before cutting

## Actions Taken As a Result of Investigation:

- Re-enforce the recommended practice of using a 'ring' tracked from a green end and cut cables singularly, include this method in the Work Package Plan and Task Briefing Sheets
- Carry out recoveries in daylight where possible and use suitable task lighting if activity has to be completed at night
- Only use insulated tools for cable recoveries
- Arrange for a Network Rail Construction Manager or other appointed person to be present during cable recoveries



**Photograph showing cable that was cut and 'Green Ended' cables ready for removal**



**Cross Section of Cut Cable**



**Hydraulic Cable Cutter**

## General Key Messages:

- Task Briefing Sheets should be detailed where specific methodologies should be in place
- Thorough planning is essential especially when enhanced task lighting is required to carry out a task safely