During a night shift on Thursday 28th March 2018 on the M6 J16-19 Smart Motorways Project; a grab mounted lorry was removing verge spoil.

It was between J17-18 (Northbound) at approx. marker post 272/20 where an 11kV overhead line was struck by the extended arm of a grab mounted lorry (example below).

One of three overhead lines was severed and another partially damaged. The tyre of the grab mounted lorry was destroyed due to the electrical contact.

**Nobody was harmed.**

The incident is a Dangerous Occurrence reportable under Schedule 2 of RIDDOR 2013. ‘*Any plant or equipment unintentionally coming into contact with an uninsulated overhead electric line in which the voltage exceeds 200 volts*’

The M6 was temporarily closed in both directions at 05:06 and it reopened at 07:05. There was a second closure of the M6 on the same evening to reinstate the overhead lines.

A full investigation is underway.

Further advice available at:

- [Raising the Bar 7 – Overhead structure and services protection](#)
- [Avoiding danger from overhead power lines (HSE)](#)

For further information please contact the National Health & Safety Team via email: [NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk)