

## Overhead Service Strike

During a night shift on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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).



Image: Gmtree/Google, used for reference purposes and was not the actual vehicle involved.

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 \(HSE\)](#)

### **Immediate actions taken:**

- Site secured and made safe
- Distribution Network Operator (DNO) Scottish Power contacted
- Emergency services informed immediately
- Carriageway closed by emergency services to enable the removal of the 2nd damaged overhead line
- Investigation and sectional stand down for a briefing during the following day
- All work prohibited working beneath overhead services

### **Key considerations:**

- Ensure the location of all overhead structures and services are identified, shared with and understood by the workforce
- Ensure protection controls such as goal posts are effectively in place and maintained
- Ensure vehicle marshalls & plant operators are competent; and that adequate supervision is provided