

CCTV Cable Strike – M6

Safety Alert

November 2018

Damage to CCTV camera power feed

Incident Description

As part of site vegetation clearance on the M6 J21a- 26 SMP scheme a team were using a Unimog vehicle with a flail cutter attachment. Whilst cutting dense vegetation, a cable feeding a temporary CCTV camera which was monitoring the southbound sliproad at J21a of the M6, as part of the SMP M62 J10-12 scheme, was cut.

The cable had been draped above ground with no visible warning markings and was obscured by brambles. The team stated that they had undertaken a visual inspection of the area and proceeded to use the flail as they did not see the cable.



Initial findings

The initial investigation has identified the following:-

- Drawings detailing the location of the cable were not available.
- CDM areas for M6 and M62 schemes were not defined.
- There was no agreed method for co-ordinating construction activities between the M6 and M62 projects.

Key considerations:-

Where it is not possible for one Principal Contractor to be in overall control, those Principal Contractors must:

- cooperate with each other and coordinate their work to ensure health and safety.
- must communicate with each other to make sure everyone understands any risks and the measures to control those risks.
- take account of any shared interfaces between the activities of each project.

When installing temporary electrical equipment e.g. cables a risk assessment must be undertaken which identifies:

- controls to suitably locate and identify the cable.
- controls required to prevent harm to those working in close proximity.
- controls needed to prevent damage e.g. ducting.
- maintenance and inspection requirements.

When working in close proximity to underground cables the following must be considered:

- the use of cable detection equipment.
- statutory undertakers drawings and site drawings that are current, to the correct scale and colour are available to those undertaking work.
- cable locations are marked on the ground and on site plans to identify their position.
- levels of supervision to ensure control measures are effective and applied.

Further information:

- HSG47 - Avoiding danger from underground services.
- PAS128 – Specification for underground utility detection, verification and location.