

## High Potential Event & Dangerous Occurrence

### M3 Smart Motorway - Overhead cables struck by mobile tower light

#### Incident Description

- Whilst undertaking night time strimming of the carriageway verge, a lighting head of a mobile tower light came into contact with 33kV overhead power lines.
- Emergency services attended the scene where the operatives involved were assessed. Two operatives were taken to hospital for further tests and assessment.

A full investigation has commenced and a further safety alert will be issued once the investigation has been completed and the findings have been agreed.

#### Advice & Guidance

- All projects and operations must ensure that measures to protect overhead cables are in place in line with Raising the Bar 7 – Overhead Structure and Services Protection and HSE Guidance - GS6.
- The Planning of work activities is a key component to managing risk. Specific working areas must be considered when conducting risk assessments and developing work package plans.
- Hazards must be clearly identified during the start of shift briefing and it is good practice to take 10 minutes to inspect any new work area for additional hazards prior commencing work activity
- Additional consideration must be given when working during hours of darkness when overhead cables may not be visible.



#### Immediate Actions Taken

- Exclusion zone setup around the incident area (the overhead cables were still live).
- Electrical distribution company attended to make the cables safe and undertake a condition survey.

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