



Safety Alert

Wire rope breakage

3 October 2019

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Aecom working on Lower Thames Crossing

SAFETY ALERT

Learning From Incidents

Injury Type: N/A	Wire rope breakage	Date: 10/09/2019	
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What Happened

On the 10th September 2019, at approximately 16:40 hrs the Lower Thames Crossing GI team at Package C, working on the north side of the Thames on open agricultural land were undertaking in situ standard penetration testing at borehole location BH13008. The task required the team extract a steel sampling rod from the borehole via the rig winch and wire rope. During the rod extraction the wire rope snapped, and the operation was stood down. No injuries occurred as a result of the incident.

The rig winch was fitted with a 6mm wire rope for the purpose of SPT tests which had a safe working load of 822kg. The winch had a safe working load of 2 tonnes which gave a factor of safety on the accessory as less than zero. The lifting / pull capability of the winch far outweighed the capability / strength of the wire rope which caused the rope to break under strain.

In addition, the safety feature of the cage did not function as intended and did not comply with PUWER Regulations 1998 & BS EN 16228-1: 2014.

Going Forward

All lifting equipment and associated documentation is to be inspected and confirmed safe for use. All lifting accessories are to have fully visible serial numbers and SWL shown on each item. All wire ropes and hydraulic hoses are to be inspected with any items showing signs of wear or damage to be removed immediately with records of the items kept on site.

All rotary rigs with safety mechanism on the cage must conform with PUWER Regulations 1998 & BS EN 16228-1: 2014 and provide full protection for the operators when the machine is in use.

Safe Behaviors = Safe Performance

Contact your SH&E Manager with questions or comments on this Lessons Learnt Summary.

SAFETY ALERT**Learning From Incidents**

Independent BDA assessors Equipe will be instructed by Perfect Circle to undertake ongoing compliance audits across the project under the agreed BDA auditor criteria. In addition, Equipe will deliver workshops to all relevant SHE professionals across the project on the findings of the incident and all potential areas of concern for ground investigations.

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