



# Safety Alert

## Shared Learning – Wire Fencing HiPo

10 December 2021

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by:

**LM JV working on behalf of HS2**



CONTROL OUR WORK  
AREAS

What Happened

At 09.30 on Tuesday 31st August, a sub-contractor to LM-JV was working under WP73 in the area known as Saddlers Wood. They were in the process of installing a post and wire fence line. The IP was working with tensioning the bottom 3.14mm wire at a low level with a Wire Grab Chain Strainer, ready for fixing to the installed fence post. The IP's partner went to collect hand tools some 5m away. He heard a noise and immediately returned to see the IP on the floor, holding his face with blood around his mouth. Unfortunately, he did not witness the incident. The IP was taken to the hospital and had a confirmed broken jaw and bruising to the right cheek. The IP had surgery and was released from the hospital on 02/09/21.

What we did

LM and all the fencing contractors on the project established a working group to look into fencing practices, wire straining tools and tension measuring gauges.

We also reviewed the adequacy of familiarisation training and written training records for tools and equipment under PUWER.



WIREMAN – STRAINEX kit



Gripple



WIREMAN – STRAINEX equipment being demonstrated at the working group.

WIREMAN STRAINEX & Gripple are the solution

The Working group decided that WIREMAN STRAINEX was the best equipment available to carry out wire fencing. In addition, it eliminated the risk of the operator being struck by the handle through over tensioning.

The Gripple was also highlighted as a great piece of equipment that can carry out any repairs to wire fencing and is very easy to use and can be purchased from local DIY stores.

Wire fencing working group: tools available on market

Hayes Wire Strainer	Gripple	Wireman StraineX	Wireman Strainer
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approx. £110</li><li>• Used for decades</li><li>• Durable</li><li>• Tension in both directions</li><li>• Incident occurred using this equipment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £69 – available at Screwfix</li><li>• Fixings are 90p each</li><li>• Easy to use</li><li>• Can revisit and re-tighten</li><li>• Not good for barb wire</li><li>• Aesthetically doesn't look good</li><li>• Good for repairs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under £300</li><li>• Removes tension release potential</li><li>• Leaves a small crimp mark in wire</li><li>• Currently only two of these are available in the UK currently, ordered by TSL and HWM</li><li>• 4-6 week delivery time from Australia</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approx. £250</li><li>• Very similar to the Hayes Monkey Walkers. Includes built in tension gauge</li><li>• Same tension release issues</li></ul>

Wire fencing Equipment examples that were trialed and feedback given by the fencers.

ACTION TAKEN AND/OR REQUIRED:

1. Experienced fencers will continue to use the Wire Grab Chain Strainer–until they are phased out by the new tools.
2. New fencers will be trained and instructed to use the Strainex device. – eliminate risk.
3. Familiarisation training to be given to all fencing operatives and recorded.