

Safety Alert

Safe installation of surface laid cables

12 September 2022

Background information

During planned maintenance activities such as vegetation clearance, a number of incidents have been reported involving surface laid cables.



Cables laid in this manner present:

- A slip / trip hazard to the workforce, and / or members of the public seeking refuge
- An increased risk of damage leading to;
 - Possible harm to people
 - Loss of essential services such as CCTV monitoring our network
- A risk of damage to plant & equipment

Guidance:

Raising the Bar 9 – Utility Avoidance, produced by the Highways Safety Hub provides guidance on how to comply with the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Council Common Intent Document on Utility Avoidance.

Raising the Bar 9 guidance advises that:

Duct – Temporary surface cables should be sleeved in purple ducting for protection and visibility and;

Raise – where possible, that ducting should be raised off the ground using boundary fence lines, stakes etc.



Actions

- This is a for **action** safety alert requiring a response via HART to one of the two actions below
 - The closing date for responses is **30 September 2022**
 - Responses will be collated after this date, and will inform future safety assurance activities
1. Each project or scheme is required to record on HART, with evidence, confirming that temporary surface laid cables have been or will be installed as per [RtB 9 Utility Avoidance](#) or;
 2. Where this has not been achieved, provide a plan of how associated risks will be managed