

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

A supervisory team consisting of two supervisors attended site to undertake an intrusive survey of a telecommunication Spine to establish the fluidity of the PON (Passive Optical Network) in readiness for caballing activities.

The supervisors that day had surveyed and verified the fluidity of five previous work points consisting of underground telecommunication JUF 4 boxes and overhead sections as part of pre-enablement activities to establish the installation of draw rope within the duct sections to enable fibre optic caballing to commence.

At work point six the supervisor established the working area with the aid of a gate guard, inserted the No.5 pit lifter in to the JUF 4 (old style) Post Office lid, opening it enough to test for the presence of gas via the use of a Gas Detection Unit (GDU); once confirmed that no gas was present the supervisor inserted the roller bar under the front edge of the lid and proceeded to pull the lifter.

At this point the lid was three quarters of the way being removed when the lifter became detached, causing the lid to drop (approximately 400mm) on to the left foot of the supervisor.



OTHER FACTORS

The process for removing telecommunication lids was followed, however the technique adopted was incorrect as the roller bar should have taken the weight of the lid, during removal instead of it being raised in the air.

The safety footwear being worn was not company issue and failed to protect the toes due to the steel protection notwithstanding the impact of the lid.

LEARNING POINTS

- Always ensure you adopt the correct working methods in line with your training, skills, experience, and knowledge
- Risk assess your activities, identify all associated hazards, implement appropriate control measures and record via the on-site/point of work risk assessment app
- Always ensure Personal Protective Equipment is suitable, sufficient, and approved for use. Remember, company issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been specifically selected to provide you with the necessary protection
- Adopt correct manual handling techniques and hierarchy of controls to prevent unnecessary risk of injury
- If unsure, Stop Work and Ask!