

**Safety Alert**

**Overhead Electric Cables and Tipper Lorry**

A crew arrived on site at approximately 1200hrs following completion of a previous job.

The weather at the time of the incident was sunny but breezy, with good visibility along the stretch of road.

Whilst undertaking surfacing work along a road, which is varied in width but averages at 5m wide, the tipper lorry was offloading the required aggregate in what appeared to be extremely close proximity to overhead electric cables running along-side the length of the road. To counter-act the “risk” a banksman is engaged to inform the tipper driver to the proximity of the cables.

Where the “incident” occurred, there was a slight right-hand bend in the road, causing the cables to encroach over the span of the road. During the tipping operation, there was a reported arc from the cables to the rear of the tipper lorry (buck).

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA. Completed forms for adding to the RSTA website should be submitted to Clive Mitchell clive@rsta-uk.org For further information regarding this safety alert please email Clive or phone 07557529410

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On inspection, the crew noted one cable had broken and dropped into the verge, narrowly missing the equipment, a second cable was still in place but damaged due to the supposed arcing.

The foreman on site immediately suspended all operations and the area made safe. UKPN were called to report the incident and arrived within the hour to undertake the required repairs.

**NOTE:** A further investigation was carried out by UK Power Network, the company points out that the 4 cables involved in this incident hanging below each other the bottom one is a neutral and the 3 above are live.

**UKPN hypothesize** that for the cables to have arced the bottom cable was pushed up towards the third cable and must have either touched it or been within a very few millimetres of it.

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