



**Cable Strike– Albert Embankment
Tideway Integration Group (TIG)
John Murphy & Sons (JMS)
12th January 2017**

	Incident type:	HV Service Strike
	Safeguard Incident No:	6874306
	Incident Date:	12 January 2017 (09:45 hrs)
	Location:	Albert Embankment
	Injured persons:	Although not physically injured, JMS are supporting for any potential psychological trauma effects
	Area or Company:	John Murphy & Sons (JMS) Tideway Integration Group (TIG) Site
	Current Condition:	Cable is being repaired by UK Power Networks (UKPN)
	Incident:	HV Service Strike
	Current Situation:	Initial JMS statement has been provided via the JMS 212 reporting process, Initial Incident Report has been submitted and uploaded on to RIVO Safeguard. Investigation on-going

Background

The operative was excavating a trench on the Albert Embankment site as part of a 5 person JMS site team. The operative was excavating using a hand held pneumatic breaker with clay spade attachment (FL22) and insulated hand tools. The excavation was required to expose space below shallow duct work so it could be lowered to accommodate concrete reinforcement work to take place above it as part of asset protection work for future heavy goods access and egress. As the excavation progressed, a known redundant cast iron pipe was exposed beneath the duct work. This had been identified for planned removal to create some of the additional space required. The operative chose to utilise the FL22 breaker to dislodge the cast iron pipe when it slipped from the area and struck an adjacent live HV 11kv electric cable resulting in an explosion and flash over. The operative did not sustain any injury however the clay spade attachment was damaged as was his protective trousers.



(Damage to clay spade)



(Showing restricted work space due to chamber right of ducts)

Immediate Actions

- The trench was evacuated immediately and works were stopped.
- Murphy's Occupational Health specialist assessed The operative's condition and reported no concerns.
- The area was made safe and protected with barriers to form an exclusion zone.
- UKPN was informed of the incident and have visited site to assess the damage and arrange repair work to the damaged cable.
- JMS, TIG and TW senior management were notified of the incident.
- Works stood down at Albert Embankment until further investigation and Safety Stand-down imposed on all JMS TIG sites requiring a review of the current safe systems of work (SSOW). JMS management and operatives briefed on the full circumstances of the incident.
- A for cause drug and alcohol test was undertaken on all operatives on site. All negative.
- Witness statements taken from all employees on site.
- A Senior Management Team review was undertaken on site on the 13th January 2017. This was attended by Vince Bowler - JMS operations director and Exec incident review lead, Andrew Forestiero - TIG lead, Steve Wilkinson - TIG Manager and Sean Luchmun – TW HS&W Manager.

Preliminary Investigation Findings:

- The operative is an experienced JMS employee. He started on site two days earlier. He received a site induction, but had not been on EPIC induction.
- It seems that the operative's frame of mind was affected by a close working colleague of his being taken to hospital the previous day. His colleague blacked out while putting on his PPE and was taken to hospital by ambulance and the operative went with him. The operative returned to site but was observed not to be himself and his supervisor sent him home. The following day (the day of the incident), the operative returned to work and appeared to be fine.
- The operative only avoided injury due to the high standard of personal protective equipment worn.

Immediate Cause:

- Operative slipped whilst using an FL22 hand breaker which made contact with a live HV cable causing an explosion and flashover.

Root Cause:

- RAMS did not identify restricted work space at incident location due to an adjacent chamber.
- RAMS were not explicit on the methodology / tools required to break out the cast iron pipe.
- Electric cable was not physically protected from damage.
- Site supervision observed the work activity but did not challenge the unsafe act.
- The operative being distracted by previous day's events to his colleague and friend.

Next steps / Actions:

Action	Owner	Completion date
Visit site to capture more images and review incident.	Andrew Forestiero / Steve Wilkinson / Sean Luchmun	Complete
Review RAMS to ensure they are suitable and sufficient	JMS	Complete
Notify TW Executive Management Team via EMT report	Sean Luchmun	Complete
The operative and teams wellbeing to be continually monitored and assessed by JMS to ensure he is fit for work	JMS	Ongoing
Notify Safety Hub via LTI Bulletin	Sally Dodman Edwards	16/01/2017
Disseminate initial lessons learnt via JMS safety alert	JMS	16/01/2017
Investigation to be completed to determine full root cause and all follow up actions to prevent re-occurrence	JMS	18/01/2017

Undertake Executive Incident Review (EIR) and assign actions identified	Andrew Forestiero	Planned for 20/01/2017
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