

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

SAFETY ALERT

Issued October 2024
Number 122024

Safety Alert – Vandalism - Danger of Electrocution

Delegation	Ringway
Business Unit	Hertfordshire
Date & Time	20:00 on 22/10/2024
Nature of Incident	High Potential Incident



Hertfordshire street lighting dept. received a 2-hour emergency callout for wires exposed at 20:00 on 22/10/2024.

When the emergency callout crew arrived on site at Kelman Close in Cheshunt, they noticed the door was off the column, the supply cable to the lantern was cut in half and the UKPN fuse carrier was missing.

Further investigation showed someone had cut the cable in half and left one end of the cable still connected in the cut out. At the other end of the cable, they had stripped off the insulation, so the bare conductors were exposed and left this laying across the footpath on the floor. They then added tin foil across the UKPN live terminals so the cable on the floor remained live.

The exact motivation for this action is presently unknown, however it appears to be either a deliberate attempt to injure a member of the public (or one of the attending engineers), or to utilise the power supply.

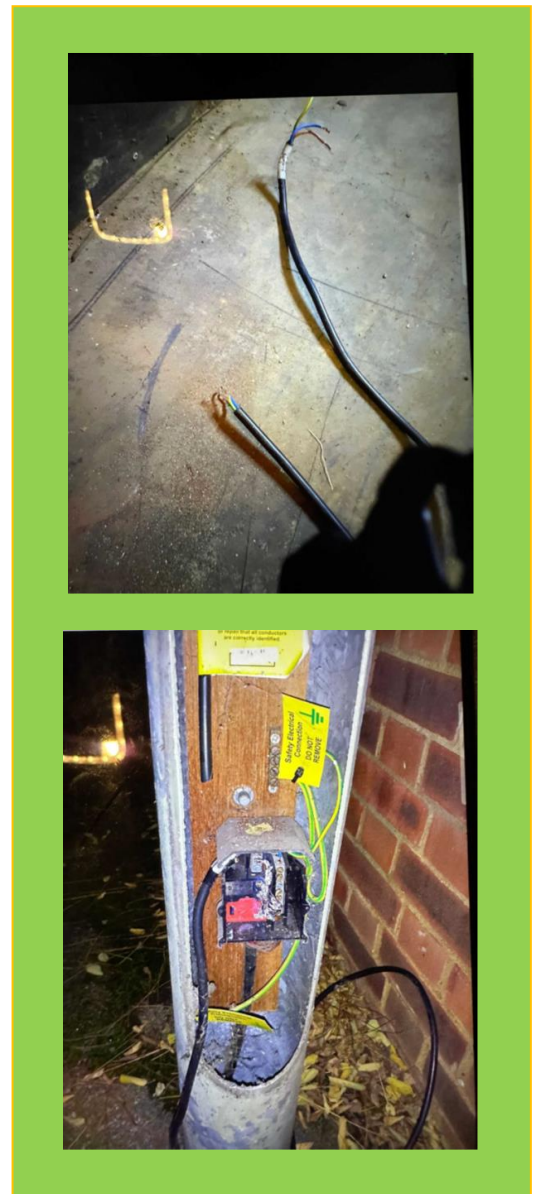
IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

The call out crew made the installation safe and then raised a near miss to the management to highlight the issue.

The crew did well to avoid being injured by showing good vigilance and following their training.

Should a similar situation be encountered, the following steps should be followed:

- Make the area safe (barrier off to prevent access).
- Only HERS registered staff to interact with the equipment.
- As per MS RA SL-01 and G39 training, inspect the condition of the DNO cut-out (in this situation, there is a significantly increased risk of an electrical short circuit & flash over). If any concerns, do not touch and call the DNO (Electricity Company) to make safe.
- If safe to proceed, follow the safe Isolation procedure (MS RA SL-03) and make electrically safe.
- Report to your supervisor.



Please share this alert across your Business Units, including use of notice boards, use of toolbox talks or inclusion in daily 5 minutes for safety briefings. Keep the alert on notice boards for a period of 1 month.

Daniel Shaw
Head of Health, Safety & Environment

