



## ***Safety Moment***

Cadent Gas Repair  
(LTI Potential +7 day RIDDOR Reportable Incident)

**Cadent**  
Your Gas Network

# London Repair West – Lost Time Injury

## What Happened:

The team attended site to find and fix a public reported gas escape. Their gas mains diagrams showed a LP gas main located in the footpath where their OSGEM checks indicated the highest reading to be and a MP main in the road verge. Their cable plans identified that a 11kVA HV cable plus six LV cables were located in the footpath. A manhole cover, which they had lifted identified BT cables also in the footpath and on the presumed line of the LP main.

As they excavated gas reading dropped away. Testing the perimeter of the excavation trace readings were found on the edge of the excavation nearest the marked location of a HV cable. Their gas detector faulted due to rain water clogging the cotton filter. The NCO1 mate changed the filter while the team leader went back to the van to order extra barriers. The NCO1 removed his leather gloves and changed the cotton filter. The NCO1 then decided that he would try and obtain better readings by using the Horizontal Searcher Bar. The NCO1 was aware of the HV cable proximity to the edge of the excavation but presumed he had enough space. He had not replaced his gloves. As he pushed the Horizontal Searcher Bar into the side of the excavation, using hand force and bare hands. The Horizontal Searcher Bar came into contact with the HV cable which failed in an explosive flash.

NCO1 injuries - 2nd degree burns to his hands – minor skin injury to skin below left eye brow – minor burn injury to outer edge of left ear – ‘sunburn’ type injury to skin over left side of face.

## Findings:

- **T/PR/TE/H1.2 requires that use of the HSB shall only be carried out on the line of an exposed main at the 3 & 9 o'clock positions**
- **When hand digging within 500 mm of HV cables, air knife/air pick, spades and shovels should be used. Picks, forks and pins shall not be used.**
- **Bars may only be used as a lever to loosen large stones.**
- **Goggles were not used by NCO1** - The NCO1 was wearing safety glasses. He had a minor injury to the skin under his left eye brow
- **The NCO1 had removed his gloves and had not put them back on before using the HSB**
- **The NCO1 was not wearing overalls** – he had no overalls available – he had not received a mobilisation pack – **FR clothing he was wearing protected body.**

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## Action/Recommendations:

- Re-brief all Repair employees on H1.2 requirements and register training + Set up process to brief all new Repair employees on H1.2
- Audit compliance with H1.2
- Amend PPE requirement and for work near HV cables so that Flash Hoods and visors are required when HV cable are exposed or excavation is within 500mm of known/presumed position of HV cable
- Amend HV cable check sheet and H1.2 to include upgrade of PPE (flash hood & visor – consider use of fire suit as well)
- Brief all Repair employees & Supervisors on required use of HV cable check sheet – note there is a CAG proposal for this check sheet to be made a mandatory stand alone risk assessment form as addendum to the Take Care sheet, it is recommended this is adopted.
- Recommend Appreciation/Award to Team Leader and mate from Assisting team in recognition of their prompt support and actions.

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**We can never be ‘Complacent about our Safety Performance’  
always keep Safety at the Top of Everything we do**

**Even if you think you are safe you must always review and  
challenge the way we do things and strive to make our  
environment a safer and healthier place to work**

**If you are unsure ‘You Must STOP and Seek Advice’**