

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Reference: SB 20 001

## Significant Near Miss

### Potential LV Cable Strike (Sphera: 12805138)

During civils work connected to the drainage network on Liverpool Container Terminal 1, an armoured black cable was discovered.

The area had been scanned by a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation, and the service drawings Peel Ports had provided to the contractor provided no indication of a potentially live Low Voltage (LV) cable in the area.

The HSE states that there are 4 key stages to help avoid danger from underground services, these are;

- carefully risk assess and plan the work;
- locate and use all relevant cable plans;
- use suitable cable locating devices, and
- employ safe digging practices which may include insulated hand-tools.

In this case, all stages were adhered to, but a Near Miss still occurred illustrating the care that must be taken with port groundworks and potentially hidden utilities.

When underground cables are damaged, employees can be injured by electric shock, electrical arcs (causing an explosion), and flames. This often results in severe burns to hands, face and body, even if protective clothing is worn.

The HSE has published guidance (HSG47) to help employers manage the hazards associated with groundworks and utilities. A copy can be found online:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg47.pdf>

