

Civilian communication fiber optic cable was snagged but not broken



Article Overview

A snagged fiber optic cable that is not broken may still experience signal degradation, and careful inspection and testing are essential to ensure network integrity.

Potential Impacts

Even if the fiber optic cable is not physically severed, a snag can cause microbends or macrobends, which distort the light signal and lead to increased insertion loss, intermittent connectivity, or reduced transmission quality . These subtle damages may not be visible externally but can degrade network performance over time.

Inspection and Testing

To assess the cable's condition after a snag:

- Visual Inspection: Check for visible bends, kinks, or stress points along the cable. Ensure connectors are properly seated and free of contamination .
- Optical Time-Domain Reflectometer (OTDR): Measures reflections and backscatter to detect microbends, stress points, or partial damage along the fiber length .
- Visual Fault Locator (VFL): Injects visible light to identify continuity issues or localized stress points .
- Signal Testing: Use a power meter to measure signal strength. Values outside the normal range (typically -15 dBm to -30 dBm) may indicate compromised performan...

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Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://khanimamboguesthouse.co.za>

Email: sales@khanimamboguesthouse.co.za

Phone: +27 64 852 1973

Address: Unit 7, Greenway Business Park, 8 Innovation Drive, Centurion, 0157, South Africa

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