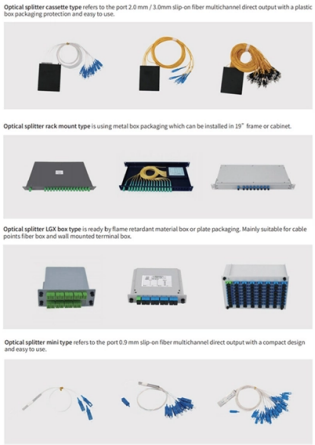
Demolition of illegal structures and cutting of fiber optic cables



Overview

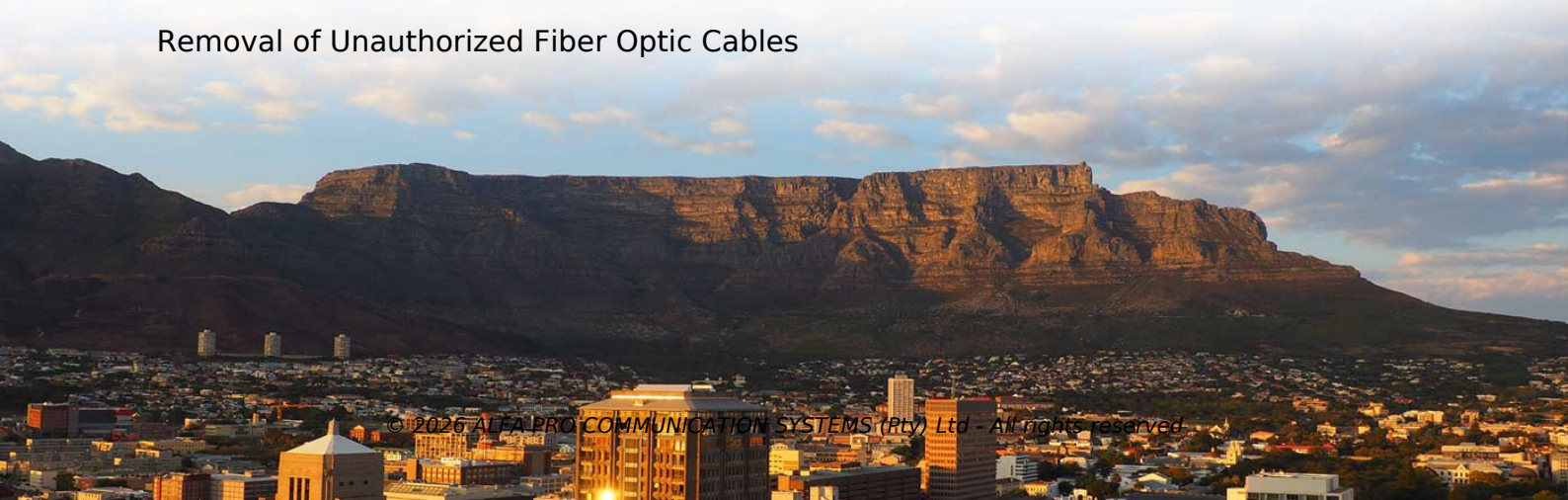
Slashed fiber cables cause Central LA Spectrum internet outageSpectrum customers in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Koreatown lost web access after fiber.

Key Takeaways

Illegal structures under power lines and unauthorized fiber optic installations are being removed worldwide to ensure public safety, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure integrity.Demolition of Illegal Structures

Governments often target structures built in prohibited zones, particularly under high-tension power lines, due to serious safety risks. For example, the Lagos State Government in Nigeria has undertaken demolition exercises in the Makoko community and along the Third Mainland Bridge to remove shanties and buildings that encroach on high-voltage areas, despite repeated warnings to residents and community engagement efforts to relocate them . Similarly, the Anambra State Government demolished unsafe structures at Mgbuka Obosi Market, emphasizing that enforcement protects lives, reduces disaster risk, and ensures public order, with offenders facing fines or court action . These operations are typically coordinated by urban planning or safety agencies and are carried out with legal backing to prevent accidents and maintain infrastructure integrity.

Removal of Unauthorized Fiber Optic Cables



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Unauthorized fiber optic installations pose both legal and operational risks. In Uruguay, the state-owned utility UTE removed fiber optic cables installed by private companies without permission on its power lines, following complaints from the national telecommunications company Antel. Such installations can cause economic damage, create safety hazards due to proximity to electrical lines, and violate public infrastructure regulations . The removal process is supervised by government authorities, and companies involved may face sanctions.

Removal of Abandoned or Low-Voltage Cables

In commercial and institutional settings, abandoned fiber optic and network cables can accumulate over time, creating fire hazards, code violations, and operational inefficiencies. Professional cable removal involves auditing, testing, and safely dismantling unused cables to prevent disruption to active networks and ensure compliance with safety standards such as the National Electrical Code . Experienced contractors can minimize business disruption while bringing facilities up to code.

Key Considerations
• Safety: Both illegal structures and unauthorized cables can pose risks to life and property. High-tension lines and electrical infrastructure require careful handling.

• Legal Compliance: Enforcement actions are backed by law, and non-compliance can result in fines, court action, or sanctions.

• Professional Execution: Cable removal and demolition should be performed by trained personnel to avoid accidents, network disruption, or structural damage.

• Community Engagement: Authorities often engage with affected residents or businesses to provide warnings and relocation options before enforcement. Overall, the removal of illegal structures and unauthorized fiber optic installations is a critical measure to protect public safety, maintain infrastructure integrity, and enforce regulatory compliance.

Article Content

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The LA incident follows a nationwide uptick in would-be copper thieves chopping into fiber-optic and communications

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Bad actors accessed an underground vault and cut three fiber-optic cables belonging to the service providers Level 3

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How to Repair a Fiber Optic Cable

Fiber optic cable repair involves cutting out the damaged section, stripping and cleaning the fiber, then rejoining the ends with a

Causes of Fiber Cut and the Recommendation to Solve the Problem

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Fiber optics (optical fibers) are long, thin strands of very pure glass about the diameter of a human hair. They are

15 lessons from lawsuits involving fiber-optic installations

This involvement with installation, product and patent issues has demonstrated 15 lessons important to installers and

Vandals cut fiber optic cables, cause widespread internet outage

An FBI investigation into vandalism on fiber-optic cables is expanding after another incident that knocked out internet

Vandals cut fiber-optic lines, causing outage for Spectrum Internet ...

Vandals cut fiber-optic lines, causing outage for Spectrum Internet subscribers The soaring price of copper makes

5 Cable Killers That Destroy Buried Fiber Cable

Here Norscan''s own cable locating and monitoring expert Maurice Dequier will take a look at the elements that can

2 charged with cutting wires; 40,000 lose internet service

Connecticut police have charged two people with cutting more than 2,000 fiber optic cables, leaving over 40,000

Charter Calls Cable Sabotage ''Domestic Terrorism'' — LAPD Says

Some 50,000 people were without internet after 13 fiber lines were cut in Los Angeles last month, according to Charter.

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PLDT calls for vigilance against illegal cable-cutting

PLDT and Smart Communications are urging their customers to stay vigilant against illegal

What Damages Fiber-Optic Cables? Key Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Fiber-optic cables transmit data via pulses of light through ultra-thin glass or plastic cores. Unlike copper cables

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The Van Nuys incident should be considered “an act of domestic terrorism based on the nature of the fiber cuts, extent

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