

Are you a first responder?

# Please Don't Cut the Cable

With each passing year, traffic numbers increase on Virginia's Interstates and highways. This increase also brings greater likelihood of cross-over accidents. Cross-median crashes, especially on high-speed roadways, often result in serious injury and fatalities.

Cable median barriers, currently being installed on [I-81 Rockingham County](#) and [I-64 Alleghany County](#) have proven successful in preventing many cross-median collisions. These cables, though not invincible, can mean life saving protection to motorists.

**CUT THE CABLES ONLY AS A LAST RESORT** Cutting cables should only be considered under life or death situations where time is absolutely critical, and other alternatives for loosening cables are not feasible. Cutting cables will require a cable splice or a complete cable section replacement, which is time consuming and costly. If the cables must be cut, make sure all personnel are clear of the cable. Also, cut the cable between two undamaged posts, away from the impact area.

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

If vehicles get tangled in the cable, it may seem easy to just cut the cable to gain better access. However, there are better options. The first is to **loosen the cables by removing adjacent support posts.**

If a vehicle gets tangled in the cables, try to move the cables back to their original position to release tension in the cables. **Consider removing the vehicle by extricating it in the opposite manner that it entered the cable system.**



LOOSEN THE CABLES BY  
REMOVING ADJACENT  
SUPPORT POSTS

VDOT /TAMS CONTRACT PERSONNEL  
CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND ON-SITE  
ASSISTANCE AT A CRASH SCENE.

**Cut the turnbuckle** It is much easier and less costly to replace a turnbuckle than installing a cable splice or replacing a cable section. When cutting a turnbuckle, it is advisable to remove the adjacent posts in the vicinity of the turnbuckle. Before cutting the turnbuckle, loosen the turnbuckle until the end of each threaded terminal reaches the inspection hole.

BEFORE CUTTING AT TURNBUCKLE, REMOVE  
ADJACENT SUPPORT POSTS **FIRST FOR SAFETY**  
REASONS



NOTE: If the cables **MUST** be cut, make sure all personnel are clear of the cable. Also, cut the cable between two undamaged posts, away from the impact area.