

What s the story behind cutting fiber optic cables



AI Overview

Fiber optic cables are cut due to a combination of accidental, environmental, animal, and intentional human activities, disrupting internet and telecommunications services.

Accidental CausesThe most common reason for fiber optic cable cuts is construction-related accidents, often referred to as “backhoe fade,” where digging or excavation inadvertently severs buried cables, interrupting service for thousands of users . Vehicle collisions with utility poles, maintenance errors, and storms that damage aerial cables also contribute significantly . Even routine infrastructure work can accidentally damage fiber lines if proper coordination with telecom operators is lacking .

Environmental and Wildlife FactorsFiber cables are vulnerable to natural forces. Severe weather events such as flooding, ice storms, and strong winds can snap aerial cables or shift the ground enough to break buried lines . Wildlife, including rodents, squirrels, and other animals, may chew through protective sheathing, causing outages, particularly in remote or forested areas .

Intentional Human InterferenceSome fiber cuts are deliberate acts of vandalism or theft. Copper thieves sometimes mistakenly target fiber-optic cables, and intentional sabotage has been reported, with operators describing certain incidents as “felony vandalism” or even likening them to domestic terrorism due to the scale of disruption . In conflict zones or politically sensitive areas, undersea cables have also been targeted, potentially as part of strategic campaigns, though many incidents remain unconfirmed .

ConsequencesWhen a fiber optic cable is cut, the light signals carrying data, voice, and video are immediately blocked, causing widespread outages or degraded service . Repairing a cut is time-consuming because each individual fiber strand must be re-spliced, which can take hours or longer depending on terrain and...

Article Content

Russian soldiers cut FPV Drone fiber optic line mid flight

Video shows Russian soldiers ambushed and cut the fiber-optic cable of a Ukrainian FPV drone, disabling it.posted 06/07/2025 from the Ukraine Russian war - S...

Thieves cutting fiber optic cables endangers Missourians | Kansas

In Kansas City this May, criminals cut multiple fiber optic lines in different locations, causing outages affecting more than 200,000 residents and businesses. One of those cuts occurred...

What Is a Fiber Cut?

What Is a Fiber Cut? A Deep Dive into Network Disruptions A fiber cut is a complete or partial severance of a fiber optic cable, resulting in an interruption or degradation of data

Optical fiber

A bundle of optical fibers A TOSLINK fiber optic audio cable with red light shining in one end and out the other An optical fiber, or optical fibre, is a flexible glass or

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

Fiber-optic cables are the backbone of modern connectivity—powering 5G networks, global internet backbones, and data center interconnections with near-light-speed data transmission.

Operators are sick and tired of the fiber cut security risk

Fiber cable cuts have been a frequent thorn in the side for operators. And they've just about had it: Charter, which recently faced a string of fiber cuts in California and Missouri, went so far

Thieves cutting fiber cables, knocking out service in KC

Communications companies are leaving behind messages for those thieves, hoping they'll stop cutting valuable cables to customers, that have no value to them.

Undersea internet cables to Europe cut — Chinese ship suspected

Two fiber-optic undersea internet cables connecting Scandinavia to mainland Europe were severed within 24 hours of one another. European officials suspect the cuts are a sign of

What Happens If You Cut a Fiber Optic Line?

Fiber optic cables are used to transmit data over long distances with minimal loss, and cutting the line disrupts this transmission. This can result in: Internet Outages: Users may...

Chinese vessel under investigation after 2 data cables found cut

Undersea cables carrying internet traffic across the Baltic Sea in northern Europe were severed earlier this week, and European investigators are still trying to piece together what happened....

The Unsolved Mystery Attack on Internet Cables in Paris

On April 27, an unknown individual or group deliberately cut crucial long-distance internet cables across multiple sites near Paris, plunging thousands of people into a connectivity blackout.

Police investigate "epidemic" of damage to fiber optic systems

Spectrum is reporting a 200% increase on attacks to its fiber optic infrastructure this year. In most cases, the damage is done by thieves looking to steal copper communications lines and ...

What is the true story behind the movie Pressure? Separating WWII

Discover the true story behind the 2026 WWII film Pressure. Explore the factual history of D-Day meteorologist James Stagg, his fierce clash with Irving Krick, and how accurately predicting a

Police investigate "epidemic" of damage to fiber optic systems

(First Alert 4) - In June, the Hazelwood Police Department reported that its phone system went down. The cause was traced to a Spectrum fiber optic line that had been cut. Spectrum is reporting...

Law enforcement questions characterization of fiber optic damage -

Several of Charter Communications aerial cables were severed last month in Van Nuys causing service disruptions across Southern California, and the company initially characterized the

Insights from the Taiwan cable cut

Last month, a Chinese-owned vessel was accused of cutting an undersea fiber-optic cable near Keelung Harbor, highlighting the vulnerability of critical communications infrastructure.

Red Sea Internet Cables "Cut" — Here's What We Know

Topline At least four undersea fiber optic cables, which carry approximately 97% of all Internet traffic, were damaged last week in the Red Sea, telecommunications providers are reporting,

Operators are sick and tired of the fiber cut security risk

U.S. operators are sounding the alarm over rising fiber cable cuts Many incidents happen because thieves mistake fiber for high-priced copper ISPs reported over 5,700 instances of

Contact Us

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

Website: <https://umele-pestovani.eu>

Email: info@umele-pestovani.eu

Phone: +49 152 287 6349

Address: Neue Mainzer Straße 66-68, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

