



Link Box Protection Blankets

The Problem

Link boxes are installed in a pit beneath the pavement and contain a low voltage cable joint with a removable link. They are sealed with heavy concrete grids that you will see on pavements across the UK. There was a growing concern about link boxes as there was an issue with them exploding. Explosions can propel the heavy concrete grids up to 40ft in the air, causing fires and producing dangerous levels of heat. These explosions pose a massive risk and there have been instances where people had sustained fatal injuries and properties and cars were damaged.

What causes link box explosions?

- Electrical Overload
- Short Circuit
- Water intrusion
- Arcing Faults
- Gas Accumulation
- Improper Installation or Maintenance
- Environmental Factors / Changes
- Old or Degraded Equipment



The aftermath of a link box explosion that caused two nearby cars to catch fire

The Solution

In 2016 AUS designed its own innovative solution to mitigate the risks involved with link box explosions, the Link Box Blanket. The blanket is made with a Kevlar filling capable of absorbing the significant forces exerted during explosions, stopping the blast from ejecting concrete grids. The blanket smothers the link box and starves it of oxygen, subsequently mitigating the risk of fire. Link boxes are not all the same size so AUS designed 24 configurations of the blanket so there is a blanket for any type of link box

The Result

Since the launch of the blanket, they have been installed all over the UK and are believed to have prevented at least 100 explosions from faulty link boxes. There are well over 167,000 of our blankets protecting link boxes nationwide and there are many more to be covered



Benefits

- Tight seal around the link box to remove water intrusion risk
- Helps to protect against temperature extremes that could cause thermal expansion or damage to internal components
- Simple installation - The blanket simply sits on top of the link box and is tucked down the sides and corners of the pit