

“KEEPING PACE” - #76

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COST TO REPAIR:

I was asked to determine the method and cost of repairs to fiber optic cables which run along the bottom of the I-71/I-75 Brent Spence Bridge over the Ohio River. The insured contractor was using a pressure water spray at over 20,000 psi to cut up the concrete roadway, when he got too close to the fiber optic cables shown in the second photograph.

A claim was made against this insured contractor for \$260,688.75 for repairs. The claimant wanted to replace not only the fiber optic cables, but also the entire 4700 foot run of Kevlar bullet proof conduit. After carefully examining the larger fiber optic cable shown in the next photograph, I believed it had not been damaged. Two days of testing with scientific equipment proved this to be true. Then I found suppliers who sell conduit in half-sections which simply clamp over the inner and outer conduits along the length of damage shown in the photograph. These repairs and the replacement of the smaller cable will cost only \$33,000.

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TRIAL TESTIMONY:



In 1998, I participated in five trials. Four of these were won outright. These involved a fuel line fire, a claimed electrical fire, an accident reconstruction, and the design of soccer stands, where a lady tripped and broke her ankle.

Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.
Forensic Engineer