


HAZARD / WORK ACTIVITY ASSESSED	Underground Services
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Hazard (something with the potential to cause harm)	Risk rating prior to control			Who may be harmed					Control Measures	Risk rating after control		
	Severity	Probability	Risk	Operator	Employee	Visitor	Public	Sub-cont		Severity	Probability	Risk
Electricity or gas supply lines – contact with	4	2	8	x	x				Service provider's sketches are not readily available for our type of work. Always question the homeowner to gain "local knowledge" as to the whereabouts of any on-site services. Area to be excavated must be scanned with cable location equipment. Regular sweeps of the ground in open excavations by a service detector are to be made at maximum 300mm depth intervals. If live services are encountered with CAT scan, if at all possible move trial hole to nearest safe position. If moving the trial hole is not possible then isolate any encountered live cables.	4	1	4
Water supply pipe – flooding of excavation or trench	2	2	4	x	x				Pumps to be available with trenches in areas of water pipes.	1	2	2
Raw sewage – contact with	3	3	9	x	x				Overalls, gloves and boots to be worn when contact with sewage is possible. Good personal hygiene practices and engineers to keep up to date with vaccinations.	2	1	1
Gas leak – explosion or asphyxia	4	2	8	x	x				Excavations in areas of gas pipes and confined spaces must be undertaken with the use of gas detectors and escape kits.	4	1	4
Fibre optic mains – contact with	1	2	2	x	x				Excavating in areas of any services must be undertaken by hand. Services that pass through excavation to be supported.	1	1	1

SAFETY METHOD STATEMENT

1. All work to be planned in advance.
2. Full details of underground services will be obtained in advance from the relative authority if working on public land.
3. Full consultation will be held with relevant authorities to agree precautions to be carried out before work begins if working on public land.
4. On domestic properties conversation with the homeowner must be undertaken to establish the whereabouts of any on-site services.
5. If at all possible excavations in areas of live services should be re located to another location away from any services.
6. Operative to ensure that services are located and marked before work begins.
7. Plans and cable location equipment to be available and not to be assumed definitive. Regular sweeps of the ground in open excavations by a service detector are to be made at maximum 300mm depth intervals.
8. Trial holes to be dug, by hand to confirm locations, taking into account of physical indicators such as junction boxes, manholes and ground conditions.
9. The lines and depth of services to be marked, using paint, wooden pegs, etc before work begins.
10. All services are to be assumed to be live until proven otherwise.
11. Services across excavations to be supported.
12. Services in concrete to be isolated where practicable, before work operations begin.
13. Work to be supervised at all times.

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Severity		Probability	Risk Rating		
1	No Injury, property damage	1	Very Unlikely	Severity X Probability = 1 to 5	Low
2	Minor Injury	2	Unlikely		
3	+3 Day Absence	3	Likely	Severity X Probability = 6 to 14	Med
4	Major Injury	4	Very Likely		
5	Death	5	Virtually Certain	Severity X Probability = 15 to 25	High
				N – Unacceptable risk Do not start work	