

List hazards with underground utilities on site

Explain dangers

Buried gas and electrical lines present a serious risk of injury and death.

Utility pipes, conduit, and cable may be damaged by

- digging without locates, or with inaccurate locates
- careless excavation once the utilities have been located and marked
- failure to support exposed utilities once they have been exposed.

Breaks in buried services threaten not only workers but also the general public.

Identify controls

The basic idea is to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**.

We have to ask utilities to locate and mark their underground services. That includes gas, water, electrical, cable TV, telephone, and pipelines.

Utilities generally offer a free service for locating and marking buried services with stakes, flags, or paint.

These markers indicate the approximate centre line of the underground service. Utilities also provide a diagram of the locate information. Keep records of all your locates on the job.

Once the underground service is located, it's our job to uncover it.

This must be done by hand digging. Never use excavating equipment to find the service.

If we use a pressurized water/vacuum system to expose the buried service, we have to check with the utility first to make sure it's safe.

In some cases, the utility may supervise our digging and excavation. This is a requirement with fibre-optic cable.

Once the service has been uncovered and its location determined at several points along its length, then excavating equipment can be used.

Exposed utility pipes, conduit, and cable must be supported to keep them from falling or breaking. When construction contracts don't specify the method of support, ask the utility for its requirements.

ONE CALL

By contacting Ontario One Call Limited we can notify all utilities with underground services in the area where we want to dig.

1-800-400-2255

Fax 1-800-400-8876

www.on1call.com

But not all parts of Ontario are covered by Ontario One Call. We have to find out whether the service is available for a particular project.

If it isn't, we must contact each utility directly for locates. We then post their phone numbers in case of emergency.

Demonstrate

Review information in a locate provided by a utility for an underground service on site.