

Excavation Safety Resources

Locating Underground Facilities and Services

Every time you dig, you're at risk of hitting buried cables, conduits, or pipes. Contacting these underground facilities can cause injury to those nearby as well as property damage. Before disturbing the ground, it's your responsibility to control the risk by accurately locating all underground facilities and services in the area you'll be working. Calling BC One Call is the first step to identifying the location of underground facilities.



Call before you dig

Calling BC One Call is one way to find out what is buried on your dig site and which areas you must avoid when digging. You may also need to contact the utility owner for more information. This toolbox meeting guide outlines what to do before you dig.



Hand exposing buried facilities

Buried facilities must be hand exposed, visible, and accurately identified before using mechanical excavation equipment. This toolbox meeting guide explains what to do when hand exposing buried facilities.



Marking underground facilities

Properly marking underground facilities is an important part of the communication process between the equipment operators and spotters. This toolbox meeting guide illustrates the colour codes for marking underground utility lines.



Prevention of Damage to Buried Facilities in British Columbia

This publication helps the digging community understand the potential hazards and best practices associated with ground disturbances in the vicinity of buried facilities. Use the "Ground disturbance checklist" (page 20) to help ensure you've met your responsibilities.



Excavation crew contacts underground power lines

This hazard alert describes an incident related to contact with underground power lines, and outlines some safe work practices.