



MEDIA RELEASE

Date 12th May 2008

WORKSAFE VICTORIA COMMITS TO DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

Today, **Dial Before You Dig** and **WorkSafe Victoria** announce an alliance, which is aimed at reducing the risk of injury to workers as a result of damage caused annually to Victoria's networks of underground assets.

Dial Before You Dig is a free referral service used by professional contractors, underground asset owners and individuals undertaking excavation, who within two clear working days of lodging an enquiry, receive location and other relevant information assisting them to excavate securely and safely.

The Chairman of **Dial Before You Dig**, Mr Scott Reid said "people and companies can literally cause millions of dollars worth of damage and threaten both lives and livelihoods within seconds through careless excavation practices. The alliance we are announcing today with **WorkSafe Victoria** is another step in the right direction of ensuring the risk associated with excavation incidents is minimised."

Executive Director of Energy Safety, Mr John Merritt, said: "It is important to realise that cables and pipes can be anywhere – they are laid at varying depths on both public and private property and can be located both inside and outside of easements meaning that unsuspecting diggers can very quickly find themselves at risk of injury, cutting essential services to their own home, or in some cases, to entire towns and cities."

WorkSafe Victoria is supporting **Dial Before You Dig** by strongly encouraging all service asset owners to;

- be members of Dial Before You Dig
- lodge all new asset locations with Dial Before You Dig
- update changes to existing asset locations with Dial Before You Dig when they occur
- respond to location enquiries within two working days
- seek ways to improve the quality of information provided to those people who lodge enquiries
- support the development of an asset incident register to be coordinated by Dial Before You Dig
- commit to implementing the Dial Before You Dig Service Guidelines currently in development, including embracing the obligations of members and users of the service

Ends.



Contacts for further information

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