



A construction site where the '5Ps' of safe site practice can ensure worker safety and asset protection.

The '5Ps' of safe excavation practice

Damage prevention organisation DBYD's highest priority is the safety of those working around infrastructure assets, as well as the community at large. At every stage of any excavation project, large or small, there are measures that can be taken to ensure both worker safety and asset protection.

Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) is a free referral service designed to assist in preventing damage and disruption to Australia's vast infrastructure networks. The organisation's core vision is to reduce damage to its members' infrastructure assets and the resulting loss and harm caused to the community.

Safety is a fundamental aspect of any excavation project and DBYD should always be the first point of contact, or the essential first step, when planning underground construction.

Before starting

It begins with lodging a free DBYD enquiry at least two business days prior to starting your project.

Just before you start

Use the plans and a visual inspection to determine whether there are any hazards or

potentially dangerous physical obstructions that could impact your safety and find suitable solutions.

When locating assets

Plans provided by asset owners only indicate the presence of assets and do not pinpoint the exact location. Unfortunately, not all of Australia's asset owners are members of DBYD, so assumptions should not be made that the plans received represent the only assets affected by the project.

Anyone who intends to undertake works associated with utility assets should make themselves familiar with the AS 5488, Classification of Subsurface Utility Information, prior to any excavation activities.

The '5Ps' of safe site practice

Following these guidelines can ensure the right steps are taken.

Plan

Lodge a DBYD enquiry at least two business days before starting any excavation to ensure you have the correct information and safety measures in place.

Prepare

Review the utility plans and contact the utility if you need assistance. Look for on-site asset and infrastructure clues such as pit lids, marker posts and meters.

Engage a DBYD Certified Locator, who can undertake electronic location prior to potholing.

Pothole

To establish the exact location of all underground infrastructure, pothole if permitted using the asset owner's stated method as specified on the asset owner's plan and/or information pack.

SAFETY



Digging on a worksite blocked off by safety fencing.

Protect

If potholing has occurred, protect the infrastructure by using various methods, such as communicating to everyone working on site, erecting barriers and marking the location of the exposed infrastructure.

Proceed

You should only proceed with your excavation work after you have planned, prepared, potholed (unless prohibited) and have protective measures in place.

Project conclusion

Once the project is complete, ensure no infrastructure assets have been damaged and any exposed underground assets uncovered by the project have been filled back in. **P**

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DBYD?

The organisation will be attending the 2019 APGA Convention in Adelaide, South Australia in October. Drop by stand 20 and speak with one of the organisation's staff to find out more about the '5Ps' and other safe site practices. For more information visit www.1100.com.au



Safety First.

Remember the 5Ps of Safe Excavation.



- Plan
- Prepare
- Pothole
- Protect
- Proceed