

Utilities Avoidance - Take the Test



Ingredients for Success		Rating 3 almost all the time, 2 sometimes, 1 not in place
1.	<p>Service location, not service avoidance</p> <p>The business uses the term and promotes the active location of services rather than just reactive avoidance.</p>	
2.	<p>Service location is a separate activity on the programme.</p> <p>Time is specifically allowed for in the main programme or monthly/weekly programme. Resource is allocated to the programme to locate services before the main excavation.</p>	
3.	<p>Best quality utility drawings and plans sought and provided.</p> <p>The company is able to obtain the best quality and right scale of utility drawing by advising their staff of what is appropriate and through a developed robust relationship with the utility provider.</p>	
4.	<p>Utility drawings show the smaller services to residential and commercial properties.</p> <p>Utility providers provide details of the location of smaller services or help the company identify where they are most likely to be.</p>	
5.	<p>Training given is over a number of modules, over a number of months.</p> <p>The use of the genny and CAT is seen as a skill and the people who use it are coached on its use over a number of sessions, not just one offs</p>	
6.	<p>Genny is used first, before the CAT.</p> <p>The Genny is used first before the CAT to locate services, it is then used with the CAT. There are a number of tracing techniques that the Genny can perform which the CAT cannot. There are a number of tracing techniques that the Genny and CAT can perform that the CAT alone cannot.</p>	
7.	<p>Two people are involved in using the Genny.</p> <p>In order to use a number of tracing functions, two people are required. There are also benefits in having two trained people assigned to using service location equipment as there are so many variables, combinations and techniques that are possible. A second person could be used as a sounding board or prompt.</p>	
8.	<p>The cost of service damage is measured and tallied.</p> <p>The cost of damaging services should be recorded and a total kept. This would help keep the focus and also demonstrate savings when fewer services are damaged year on year after following these recommendations.</p>	
9.	<p>The number of services avoided or number of meters dug without hitting service is measured.</p> <p>Measuring this will help to reinforce the correct behaviours and acknowledge the work that goes in to avoiding a large number of services. This can help to develop pride and recognition.</p>	
10.	<p>Operatives provided with regular feedback about the amount of services avoided successfully.</p> <p>The measures in point 9 are fed back to the worker regularly so that they learn that the focus is also on how many they safely avoid. This is proven to increase the number of services avoided successfully.</p>	
11.	<p>Supervisors are acknowledged for their gangs' ability to avoid services.</p> <p>The supervisor should be held accountable for the successful avoidance of services by their Gang. This should be acknowledged and reinforced by management.</p>	

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12.	<p>Supervisors are held to account if services are damaged.</p> <p>The supervisor should be held accountable for the unsuccessful avoidance and damage to services caused by their Gang's actions.</p>	
13.	<p>All accessories are supplied with the Genny.</p> <p>Most 'off-the-shelf' hired CAT and Genny's do not come with all the accessories that are needed for successful utility tracing. Specific agreements should be in place stating what accessories should be provided with the Genny. This should be checked regularly.</p>	
14.	<p>Regular refresher training is given.</p> <p>It is important and very useful to carry out refresher training on the use of the Genny and CAT. There is a lot of information to remember. If the person is not tracing regularly, they are not likely to be fluent. Alternatively, if tracing regularly and left unchecked, bad habits or inaccurate methods may have crept in.</p>	
15.	<p>Senior Manager measures the desired behaviours of managers and supervisors.</p> <p>Rather than only measure services that are avoided and damaged, Snr Managers should measure the desired behaviours of their managers and supervisors. Measuring against this list would be a good start.</p>	
16.	<p>Information is accurately recorded and sent back to the utility company.</p> <p>In the spirit of progressive improvement, services that are uncovered could/should be recorded and the information is fed back to the utility company.</p>	
17.	<p>Operatives are trained on safe digging techniques.</p> <p>There are definitely some digging techniques that are safer than others. Operatives should be trained (instructed, demonstrated to and checked) on safe digging techniques.</p>	
18.	<p>Machine operator does not dig until services are located or within 500 mm.</p> <p>It is important to separate the two activities where possible. The machine digger starting to dig or waiting to dig puts enormous pressure on the location team. Best practice would be to locate all services where reasonably practicable, mark, highlight, protect and then brief the driver of their location. This is proven to significantly reduce service damage.</p>	
19.	<p>Adequate time and resource is allowed. Programme pressure recognised as a specific risk</p> <p>It should be recognised by clients and contractors that the biggest risk to service damage is the pressure to get the job done and skip the steps mentioned above. It is also more likely for services to be damaged where projects have fallen behind on programme.</p>	
	<p>TOTAL</p> <p>Between 57 and 49 - Excellent Between 49 and 38 - Good Between 38 and 28 - Not quite Between 28 and 19 - Poor</p>	
<p>Comments</p>		