



# TRENCHING & EXCAVATION

These are the minimum standards for working safely around trenches and excavations on BMD sites. They keep our standards consistent across every business unit and make it clear what good looks like. Depending on your project's unique context you may need to add additional controls, but these are the minimum we all uphold.

## PLANNING AND PERMITS

- › Excavation work must be planned and risk assessed before work starts.
- › A Trenching & Excavation Permit must be issued when excavations are:
  - Greater than or equal to 1.5 metres deep.
  - Less than 1.5 metres deep and ground conditions require stabilisation methods (benching, battering, shoring, etc.).
- › Any works within 10 metres of a live service must be carried out in accordance with the Live Services Minimum Standards.
- › A geotechnical engineer must confirm excavation stability if ground support controls (shoring, benching or battering) are not in place or effective.
- › Possible water sources must be identified and controls implemented to prevent flooding or soil instability.



## EXCAVATIONS AND GROUND STABILITY

- › Excavations and surrounding structures must be inspected regularly, after any change in conditions, and recorded using the appropriate checklist.
- › Plant, spoil and materials must be kept outside the zone of influence unless ground support has been designed for those loads.



## ACCESS AND EGRESS

- › Safe and suitable access and egress must be provided for all excavations.
- › Ladders must be secured, extend 1 metre above the surface of the excavation and have a load rating of at least 120kg.
- › Where ladders are used in a trench more than 1.5 metres deep, a ladder must be installed every 9 metres along the length of the trench.



## PHYSICAL SEPARATION AND PROTECTIONS

- › Open penetrations, excavations and trenches must:
  - Have edge protection appropriate to their depth and location.
  - Be securely covered or protected at all times when not in use.
  - Be adequately sign posted.
- › Restricted and Exclusion Zones are to be established in accordance with the [Mobile Plant & Equipment Minimum Standards](#).
- › All workers and mobile plant must comply with the Vehicle Movement Plan and Spotter requirements as outlined in the Mobile Plant & Equipment Minimum Standards.



REMEMBER  
TO GET SET.



PAUSE



SET



GO



LOOKING FOR  
MORE TOOLS,  
RESOURCES  
OR OUR BMD  
FUNDAMENTALS?