

**Fixing Burst Mains | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)**

**TASK OR ACTIVITY: Fixing Burst Mains**

Business Name:	ABN:	SWMS#
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

**THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT**

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:

Signature:	Title:	Date:
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Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.

Full Name:	Title:	Phone:
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**ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED** **NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS**

Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, then to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.

If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.

Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.

The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT

<input type="checkbox"/> involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on a telecommunication tower	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services
<input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
<input type="checkbox"/> involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/> involves tilt-up or precast concrete
<input type="checkbox"/> involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near a confined space	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 2m or tunnel involving use of explosives	<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
<input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	<input type="checkbox"/> involves diving work.

ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

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RISK MATRIX							
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records

  

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS	
<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.	
<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.	
<b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard	
<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.	
<b>Administrative</b> Change the work.	
<b>PPE</b>	

**Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:** Elimination methods are the most effective and preferred when controlling a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the third most effective, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is the least effective method.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)											
Select the appropriate PPE (where suitable) for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).											
FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	EYE PROTECTION	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other PPE Required:											
Permit or Licenses Requirements						Mandatory Qualifications and Training					

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Mishandling of tools, Inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE), Unknown utilities	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a toolbox talk to educate workers about potential hazards and safe work practices.</li> <li>- Ensure all workers have received appropriate training on the use of tools and equipment required for the task.</li> <li>- Verify that workers understand and comply with the correct manual handling techniques to prevent injuries from mishandling tools.</li> <li>- Ensure all necessary PPE is provided, including gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, high-visibility clothing, and steel-toe boots.</li> <li>- Conduct a pre-start inspection of PPE to ensure it is in good condition and suitable for the task.</li> <li>- Implement a strict policy where workers must wear PPE at all times while on site.</li> <li>- Utilise case location to identify any underground utilities before excavation begins.</li> <li>- Review existing utility plans and diagrams to identify location and details of nearby services.</li> <li>- Employ signage and barriers to demarcate work areas to prevent unauthorized access and to protect other site personnel.</li> <li>- Assign responsibilities to a competent person to supervise and guide on proper tool usage and adherence to safety protocols.</li> <li>- Establish clear communication channels, such as two-way radios or mobile phones, to allow for immediate reporting and response to hazards or issues.</li> <li>- Continuously monitor weather conditions and adjust preparation activities as needed—especially concerning soil and ground stability.</li> <li>- Limit the number of personnel in the work area to essential staff only, minimizing exposure and congestion around the preparation site.</li> </ul>	2M
2. Site Assessment	Risks associated with traffic, Inadequate barricade or signage, Overlooked underground services	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a thorough site inspection to identify potential traffic flow issues and plan for traffic control measures.</li> <li>- Utilise qualified traffic controllers to manage vehicle and pedestrian traffic around the worksite.</li> <li>- Install clearly visible and compliant barricades around the work area to prevent unauthorised access.</li> <li>- Use high-visibility signs indicating the presence of roadworks and diversions well in advance.</li> <li>- Engage with local authorities or councils to ensure compliance with regional traffic management regulations.</li> <li>- Refer to as-built drawings and utilise underground service locating equipment before any ground disturbance.</li> <li>- Apply non-destructive digging techniques when working near known underground services.</li> </ul>	3H

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a toolbox talk prior to commencing work, highlighting the location of known hazards and safety precautions.</li> <li>- Ensure all workers wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including high-visibility clothing.</li> <li>- Maintain regular communication between team members using two-way radios or mobile phones to quickly respond to changes in traffic conditions.</li> <li>- Position spotters at key points to monitor traffic and alert workers about incoming vehicles.</li> <li>- Schedule work during off-peak hours where feasible to minimize the impact on traffic flow and reduce risk.</li> </ul>	
3. Burst Mains Isolation	Electrical hazards, Water contamination, Failure to de-energise		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-work risk assessment to identify any electrical sources and ensure all employees understand isolation procedures.</li> <li>- Ensure that all workers are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment including insulated gloves and rubber safety boots.</li> <li>- Establish a clear exclusion zone around the burst main area to prevent unauthorised access by utilising barriers and signage.</li> <li>- Use insulated tools and equipment specifically designed for working near water and electrical installations.</li> <li>- Ensure that a licensed electrician is available on-site to de-energise any electrical systems affected by the burst mains.</li> <li>- Implement lockout/tag-out procedures on electrical systems associated with the mains work to prevent accidental energisation.</li> <li>- Conduct water testing before beginning repairs to assess contamination levels and determine appropriate safety protocols.</li> <li>- Provide training for all staff involved in identifying potential contamination sources and understanding proper hygiene practices.</li> <li>- Utilise pumps and drainage solutions to manage water accumulation safely, ensuring that they are placed away from any electrical hazards.</li> <li>- Develop an emergency response plan tailored to handling electric shock or contamination incidents, ensuring all personnel are familiar with the procedures.</li> </ul>	2M
4. Excavation	Collapse of excavation walls, Contacting existing substructure utilities	4A	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	3H

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
5. Pipe Cutting	Hand and eye injuries from pipe cutting, Incorrect use of tools	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
6. Removal of Damaged Pipe	Physical strain, Dropping heavy objects, Slips and trips	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
7. New Pipe Installation	Incorrect installation causing leaks, Failure to follow manufacturer's instructions	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
8. Connection of New Pipe	Pipe or plumbing system pressure issues, Improper sealants used	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
9. Pressure Testing	Unexpected release of pressure, Equipment failure	4A	[REDACTED]	3H
10. Backfilling and Compaction	Uneven ground surface causing slips, trips or falls, Struck by moving plant or equipment	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			[REDACTED]	
11. Reinstatement	Exposure to dust, Noise, Vibration from power tools	3H	[REDACTED]	2M

SAMPLE

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
12. Disposal of Waste Material	Inappropriate waste disposal, Manual handling injuries	3H	[REDACTED]	2M
13. Clean-Up	Slips, trips and falls from unorganized tools/materials, Chemical spills	2M	[REDACTED]	1L

SAMPLE





JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK

SAMPLE

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES**

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES**

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES FOR ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

**Queensland & Australian Capital Territory**

Work Health and Safety Act 2011  
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011  
 Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>  
 Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>  
 Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>  
 Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

**Victoria**

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004  
 Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017  
 Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>  
 Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

**New South Wales**

Work Health and Safety Act 2011  
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017  
 Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>  
 Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/lis>

**Western Australia**

Work Health and Safety Act 2020  
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022  
 Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>  
 Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

**Northern Territory**

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011  
 Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011  
 Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-places-and-laws>  
 Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

**Safe Work Australia Links**

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>  
 Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

**South Australia**

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)  
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)  
 Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>  
 Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/work-places/codes-of-practice#COPs>

**Model Codes of Practice**

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

**Tasmania**

Work Health and Safety Act 2012  
 Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012  
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012  
 Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012  
 Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>  
 Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

**SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT**

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Signature	Date

**SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW**

**The SWMS must be reviewed regularly** to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and sub-contractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represent that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

**The SWMS must be monitored regularly** for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

**SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST**

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed are noted on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training or skills required to perform the work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY</b>		<b>DATE REVIEWED</b>
<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>