



Performing Ground Work Adjacent To	Deep Excavation SAFE	WORK METHOD STATEMEN	T (SWMS)
TASK OR ACTIVITY: F	Performing Ground Work Adjace	ent To Deep Excavation	
Business Name:		ABN:	SWMS#
Business Address:			
Contact Person:	Phone:	E il:	
THIS SAFE WORK METHOD	STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY	THE PCL OF THE ROJECT	
Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conduct the proposed work starts.	cting a business or undo	s required to en that a safe work method	statement (SWMS) is prepared before
Full Name:			
Signature:	NY	Title:	Date:
Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring	opliance the VMS a well as review	ws and modifications of the SWMS.	
Full Name:		Title:	Phone:
ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS & MS MY HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED	NA 2 OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONN EVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF	IEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND C THIS SWMS	OMMUNICATED TO IN THE
Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be sched ed in account with gislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, and then to further take steps to either eliminate or connected hazard.			
If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must sto, quately. 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.			

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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 BIOK CONSTRUCTOR	NAME OF THE POLIT
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTOR	N WC & BEIN C ARIED OUT
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters	is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower	carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing	\square is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integral of a functure	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asb	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that —quires term — v sup —rt to prevent collapse	☐ is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor
☐ is carried out in or near a confined space	☐ is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant
☐ is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper that. tunnel involving use of explosives	☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
\square is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	☐ involves diving work.
ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINER	Y OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

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RISK MATRIX										
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HEI	RARCHY OF CONTROLS	
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	SCORE ACTION	SCORE ACTION		Elimination Remove the hazard.	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCE		Substitution	
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.		Replace the hazard.	
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	Isolate	e People from the hazard	
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	nitor and		Engineering Isolate the hazard.	
is the second m	Administrative Change the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the increase by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equation). The least effective									

				PERS		TIVE EQUIPM					
		Select the app	ropriate PPŁ	abo v uitab	cor the equi	pment used or	the job task	being perforr	ned (if applica	ıble).	
FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING ETION	P ECTION	PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
Other PPE R	equired:										
	Pe	ermit or Licen	ses Requirem	ents		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	Falling into excavation, injury from heavy equipment operation	ЗН	 Conduct a site-specific risk assessment to contify all potential hazards and implement appropriate measures before starting any groundwork. Install sturdy physical barriers and warning is not bound the excavation perimeter to prevent unauthorised access and accidental falls. Ensure proper training for airconsonnel on-site recordings or risks associated with working near deep excavations and safe on a practice. Implement a trough system ensured workers cannot alone when performing tasks near the excavation edge. Utilize spotten when trough equipment or in operation to ensure clear communication and maintain visible or ground overs at all times. Enfolds a or fe discord between workers and the edges of the excavation by using marked boundary lines on uar. Scheditor regular inspections of the excavation site throughout the day to assess for changes in contition that may pose additional risks. Use apportate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as high-visibility vests, hard hats, and non-to boots to enhance worker safety. Develop and enforce an exclusion zone policy for heavy machinery, keeping them at a safe distance from the excavation edges unless absolutely necessary. Provide adequate lighting for areas adjacent to excavations, particularly if work extends into early morning or late afternoon to prevent trips and falls. Establish emergency response protocols, including rescue procedures and first aid availability, specifically tailored for incidents involving excavations. Regularly communicate and refresh safety protocols with all staff during toolbox talks to reinforce awareness and adherence to control measures. 	2M
2. Site Inspection	Geotechnical hazards, ground instability	2M	 Conduct a comprehensive geotechnical assessment and document findings before starting any ground work to identify potential hazards. Ensure all workers have been trained to recognize signs of ground instability and know the procedures to follow if detected. Use signage to clearly mark areas with identified geotechnical risks and restrict access to unauthorised personnel. Implement engineering controls such as shoring, benches, or slopes to stabilize excavations and prevent collapse. Establish a safe distance away from the edge of the excavation for stockpiling materials and equipment storage. 	1L



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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
			- Regularly monitor weather conditions as heavy rain can increase the risk of ground movement and instability.	
			- Schedule condition assessments by qualified profesionals regularly to check for changes in stability or emerging risks.	
			- Minimise vibrations from machinery and its topy traffic the could impact ground stability through the use of buffer zones or vibration dampening equipment.	
			- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PE), such as hard hats and high-visibility vests, to enhance safety when working pear unstable area.	
			- Plan escape routes and emergacy response process specific to geotechnical risks on site and ensure all workers and early chem.	
			- Keep communication ope etwee earns during that any changes in site conditions or new hazards are promptly a ved.	
			- Per daily in couns of the work area for cracks, bulges, or other signs of movement in the earth around a vation.	
			- Use a van of monkering technologies, like laser scanning or inclinometers, to continuously assess ground a over at in charal areas.	
			- Con. St. site inspection to identify any uneven surfaces and plan for their stabilization.	
			se brignuy coloured spray paint or flags to clearly mark the boundaries of the excavation area.	
			- Fuer to Dial Before You Dig or similar services to obtain plans of underground utilities prior to marking.	
			- Employ ground-penetrating radar or other detection equipment to verify the location of underground utilities.	
			- Install temporary fencing or barriers around the excavation zone to prevent unauthorized access.	
			- Ensure appropriate signage is in place to warn workers and visitors of potential hazards.	
Marking Excavation	Uneven surface, hidden	211	- Use level measuring tools to assess gradient changes and mark any uneven areas distinctly.	01/4
area	utilities	3H	- Demonstrate the work area boundaries in a pre-start meeting with all personnel involved.	2M
			- Develop a communication plan that ensures clear instructions are given to workers about ground stability issues.	
			- Assign a qualified spotter to oversee marking activities and help identify potential hazards.	
			- Review weather conditions prior to work, as rain can affect ground stability and visibility of markings.	
			- Maintain up-to-date records and maps of marked utilities available on-site for reference.	
			- Implement a permit-to-work system that includes checks for hidden utilities before work commences.	
			- Ensure all relevant staff have training in recognising and managing risks associated with uneven surfaces and hidden utilities.	
4. Set Up Safe Work Area	Struck by moving vehicles, tripping over ground materials	2M		1L



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5. Install Safety Barriers	Muscular strain from manual handling, falling into the deep excavation	2M		I 1L



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3. Dig Trench	Contact with utilities, cave-ins	4A		3H



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7. Tools Check	Injury due to faulty tools, electrocution	2M		1L
8. Soil Assessment	Exposure to harmful substances in soil, misclassification of soil type	зн		■ 2M



JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
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9. Daily Safety Briefing	Miscommunication causing accidents, non-compliance to safety measures	2M		1L



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10. Excavation work	Collapsing sides, falling objects	4A		3H
11. Ladder Installation	Falls during ladder installation, incorrect ladder placement	3Н		2M



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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. Debris Removal	Injury from sharp objects, manual handling injuries	ЗН		2M



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13. Final Inspection	Missing hazard identification, fatigue from prolonged work hours	211		1L
14. Backfilling Process	Entrapment in backfilled material, Handling of heavy equipment	3H		2M



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15. Site Clean up	Tripping on leftover debris, Hazardous chemical exposure	ЗН		2M



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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
				•
16. Documentation Completion	incorrect data recording, miscommunication	1L		1L



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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
17. Equipment Sterilisation	chemical burns, inhalation of harmful disinfectants	2M		1L
18. Debriefing Team	Misunderstandings resulting in wrong safety practices	2M		1L



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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
19. Temporary Barricading	potential injury from any export the excavation, misuse of path	ЗН		2M



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20. Post Work Site Inspection	missed safety precautions, remaining hazards	2M		1L



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. ANY STATE OF AT 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

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/legislative

Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/lis > odes-oi racti

Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulation 201

Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/wo_place-

Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/f

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_aces/codes-of-practice#COPs

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.

Victoria

Occupational Health al. Safety Act

Occupational Health and affety gulations 2017

Legis on VIC: https://www.csafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-

gulat

des on actice VI autros://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

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

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

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





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 IN THE STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains a fective of must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The view process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors as support ractors of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU mast ensure that 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 rest of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties and the 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:

- 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							

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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.		
All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.		
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.		
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	7	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.		
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.		
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.		
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS		
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column pleted.		
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selections		
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the part the important control measures.		
Permit or licenses requirements specified, sur as Hot Work, Electric Work, Work at Heights etc.		
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be us		
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed an inoted on the SWMS.		
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, and or skills required to perform the work.		
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.		
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.		
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.		
REVIEWED BY	DATE REVIEWE	D
SIGNATURE	DATE COMPLET	ED