

## Stop if anything changes

It is important to stop when things change to ensure the work activity can be reassessed. When things change new hazards become part of the activity, taking time to stop and look at the new hazards gives the opportunity to plan the works with new controls in place which protect you from harm. Stopping when things change could be the difference between a life changing injury, a high potential close call or a serious incident.

### Plan and consider all activities

- Look at the statistics and drawings, if not specific to the work area stop and reassess.
- Check all the necessary permits are in place and do not commence work if not in place
- Ensure the area has been CAT scanned for any services and ensure the location has been “provisionally” marked.

### Safe digging

- Continue to scan at regular intervals to capture any services that change with depth
- Ensure tools are insulated and undamaged, if they are not do not start work
- Carry out trial holes to locate known services in the area
- Continue to assess the route of the ducting and utilities for any changes in depth
- Watch out for changes in previous works like new concrete along your route that may have something below not shown on the drawings/statistics
- If you damage an underground cable or find a damaged cable, vacate the excavation/area immediately and stop what you are doing, speak with your supervisor who will contact the relevant utility service owners.
- Treat all services as live at all times. Test before touch.

### Stop working if:

- If your task changes or if something occurs that was unexpected then stop work, tell your supervisor who will re-assess the situation and put in place further controls to ensure your safety, this then allows us to communicate the additional controls to the rest of the workforce
- If the ground or environment change during the dig stop works immediately and reassess

When you stop work because of a change, you aren't just protecting yourself; you're also protecting your colleagues on your site and on other sites.

That's why it's one of our four BeSafe rules: **Stop work if anything changes.**

VGC will always support a person who stops a work activity and raises the issue for a safety issue. Thank you, and please remember, let us know of any observations and good practice you see on [besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk](mailto:besafe@vgcgroup.co.uk) or the observation reporting system for your project.

**REMEMBER:** All buried services have the potential to cause injury or illness

