

Working near Ausgrid cables

Finding out what's below the surface can save your life.

Call Dial Before You Dig on **1100** or visit 1100.com.au



Changes in the Law.

NSW legislation now requires people who are planning to do excavation work to obtain copies of underground electricity cable plans through Dial Before you Dig (Phone 1100) and to make sure that the plans are no more than 30 days old when excavation commences.

The aim of the legislation is to ensure that when workers dig near electricity cables, they will establish the exact location of the cables and thus avoid coming into contact with them or damaging them. This will ensure worker safety and also prevent disruption to Ausgrid's electricity network.

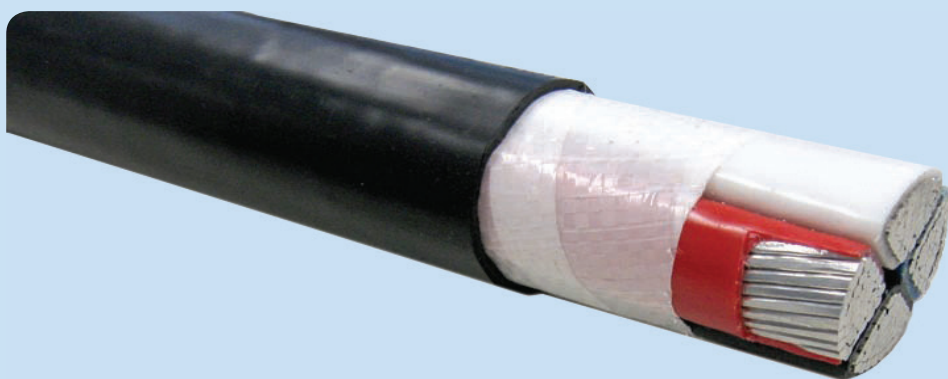
This brochure gives you a brief overview of how to prepare for excavation works near or around electricity cables. It is important that you also consult our guide How to Read Ausgrid Plans and make sure that workers engaged in excavation works fully understand how to read the plan. If the people actually doing the digging can't read the plans, it is essential that the work is directed by a person who has been trained to read Ausgrid's plans.

You must also consult Ausgrid's Network Standard NS156, which contains comprehensive information concerning all the issues that arise when excavating near underground cables (such as safety hazards from asbestos conduits and organochlorine pesticides).

Excavating near transmission cables.

If any cable plan you receive says "You are working near transmission cables" it is compulsory to notify Ausgrid two weeks before work is scheduled to begin. Ausgrid will then arrange for an Ausgrid representative to attend the site during excavation work.

Phone the Ausgrid Transmission enquiries line on (02) 4951 9200 to arrange for an Ausgrid representative in your region.



Be prepared. Wise words for safety at work.

Here are some simple precautions you and your workers need to follow in order to be as safe as possible.

- Make sure that your Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) plan is less than 30 days old
- Keep a copy of the cable plan on site at all times
- Make sure the excavation work is conducted or directed by staff who are trained to read the plan
- Hand dig until the exact location of the cable has been established
- Have on site at all times a first aid kit and a person trained in resuscitation
- Wear protective clothing, including safety footwear and safety helmet
- Have emergency contact numbers on site
- Set up safety barriers, witches hats and warning lights to reduce the risk of injury to the general public
- Comply with all SafeWork NSW requirements and codes.

See also:

- **SafeWork NSW Guidelines: Work Near Underground Assets**
- **SafeWork NSW Code of Practice: Excavation Work**
- **SafeWork NSW Code of Practice: Work Near Overhead Powerlines (if applicable).**

Before you start. Complete the checklist. Stop and look around.

Before you start excavating, consult the flow chart and fill in the checklist at the end of this brochure.

Then, be sure to look for clues where cables might be located on the site: for example pits, distribution pillars (green and other colours), cables attached to the side of poles, street lights without overhead wires.



Do all power cables look the same?

No. Power cables come in different sizes, colours and coverings. They may be covered in black plastic sheath, steel wires in a sticky bitument like material, or even a simple lead or steel wire/tape sheath.

What else should I look for below ground level?

Cables may also be buried in orange PVC or PE conduits or even in earthenware or steel pipes. A bank of cables may be covered with electrical bricks, plastic warning markers or protective covers, or they may not be covered at all. If they have been buried close to the surface, they may be covered by concrete slabs or steel plates.

When in doubt, ask Ausgrid.

If you have any questions about excavating near Ausgrid cables, read **NS156** (available at ausgrid.com.au).
For further information call **13 13 65**.

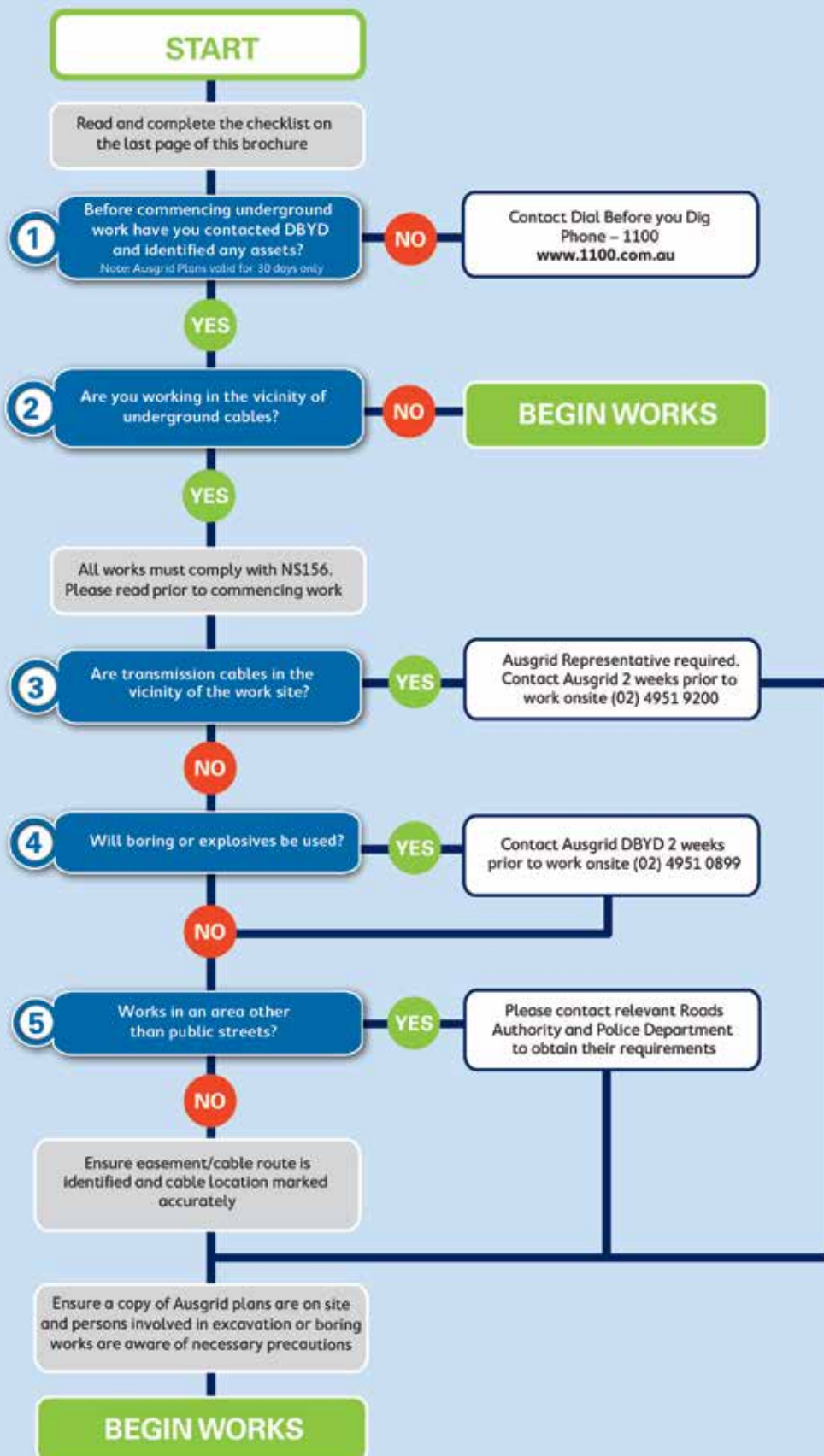
You've taken every precaution but accidents still happen. What now?

If you damage an electricity cable, it is compulsory to notify Ausgrid on **13 13 88**.

Striking power cables can cause serious damage to the cables and endanger the lives of anyone who comes in contact with them. Machinery and hand operated plant such as jack hammers can become alive if it is in contact with electrical cables or equipment. Keep people well away from machinery and the work site if contact is made with a cable.



Flow Chart for work near Ausgrid Cables



Ausgrid Checklist for work near or around underground cables

It is the responsibility of the Constructor to ensure that underground pits, ducts and cables are not damaged as a result of construction work. It is also your duty to protect your workers from harm or injury. This Checklist is intended to be used as a guide to what Constructors should do to make sure they have satisfied the minimum requirements to minimise damage to underground networks.

PLANS, LOCATION and NOTIFICATIONS	Completed
All relevant utilities plans obtained from Dial Before You Dig? (call 1100 – allow at least 5 working days for plans).	
Checked issue date on all the above plans to ensure issue was within the last 30 days?	
Examined plans and assessed all possible impacts on Ausgrid’s network?	
Do you have both Underground Distribution and Transmission Plans (if applicable), on site at all times?	
All cables and conduits shown on the Ausgrid plans been located and marked on the ground?	
If you are planning to use a bore, have you ensured that the equipment is calibrated?	
Have you read and understood the requirements of NS 156? (for copies of NS 156 visit Ausgrid’s Website or phone Ausgrid DBYD Office (02) 4951 0899) www.ausgrid.com.au	
Have you notified Ausgrid as specified by NS 0156 and complied with requirements? Where an Ausgrid representative is required, two weeks notice is required before work commencing on site. Contact phone number for Transmission cable enquiries is (02) 4951 9200. For all other cases contact Ausgrid DBYD Office: (02) 4951 0899.	
INSPECTION OF WORK BY Ausgrid’s REPRESENTATIVE	
Is the Ausgrid representative on site for any work near or around* any transmission cable before you start? (*Refer to NS 156.)	
For proposed work near or around* cables other than transmission and/or conduits, are any requirements specified by Ausgrid’s representative clearly understood and ready to be applied before you start the work? (*Refer to NS 156.)	
PROTECTION	
Check that all people on-site have been made aware of the presence and location of ALL Ausgrid underground cables and/or conduits; especially boring, drilling and trenching machine operators?	
Is there any asbestos or asbestos containing material in Ausgrid’s underground network assets?	
Have you checked for the presence of any Organo-Chloride Pesticides (OCP) in transmission trenches?	
Is the site supervisor monitoring all machine operators working near or around Ausgrid’s underground cables and/or conduits?	
Are the requirements specified by Ausgrid’s representative being followed?	
Are Ausgrid’s requirements in place for any exposed cables and/or conduits to be supported and protected?	
Have you marked all exposed underground cables and/or conduits with flags that are clearly visible from within all machinery used on-site?	
Have safety barriers, fencing or para-webbing been erected to protect staff and the public as well underground cables and/or conduits in areas that are at risk?	
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**In the event of DAMAGE to Ausgrid’s cable or conduits, call 13 13 88 immediately.
PROCEED with CAUTION**

It is your responsibility to protect Ausgrid’s cables and conduits from damage and your Duty of Care to protect your workers from harm or injury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____
Responsible person on site

For more information call 13 13 65 or visit www.ausgrid.com.au

