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Suggested Safe Work Practices for Hydro Vacuum Excavation of High Voltage Underground Cables

Utilizing The Kri-Tech Equi-Potential Bond Mat

Preparation Prior to Going to Job Site

- Obtain proper work permits and notify the local utilities as appropriate and required by local laws / regulations.
- Develop a written “Safe Work Plan”
- Ensure all equipment is in good working condition.
- Ensure all workers are appropriately trained and briefed on the safe work plan

Personal Protective Equipment

- Kri-Tech Portable Equi-Potential Bond Mat
- Fire Resistant Clothing compliant with local regulations
- Eye Protection compliant with local regulations
- Any other Personal Protective Equipment as required by your company standards

Hydro Excavation Vehicle Set Up

- 1500 psi maximum wand water pressure
- 200 Degrees F (93.3 degrees C) maximum wand water temperature
- Neoprene or equivalent vacuum pipe end tip to protect the underground cable
- Local utility or company policies may differ from the above and such takes precedence.

Setting Up The Job Site

- “Danger High Voltage” flagging located 4 ft (1.2 meters) from the vacuum excavation vehicle and job site to help prevent step and touch potential electrocution risks.
- When the vacuum excavation vehicle is within 6.5 ft (2 meters) of the bond mats the vehicle should be bonded into the equi-potential zone (connected to the mats being used by the operators).

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Excavation Procedure

- All workers within the flagged work site must be on a bond mat that is electrically bonded to the equipment being operated.
 - Vacuum pipe to bond mat
 - Pressure wand to bond mat
 - Hardwire Remote Controls bond to the hydro vacuum vehicle (do not bond to the frame as it may be insulated by rubber cushions)
- Wireless remote control operator should maintain a minimum distance of 6.5 ft (2 meters) from any equipment including bond mats (wireless remote control operator does not require a bond mat).
- Avoid excavation below the underground cable unless otherwise directed by the local authority.
- Maintain a constant circular motion with the pressure wand never allowing the wand to be stationary.
- When the underground cable is exposed use a sweeping side to side motion never allowing wand to be stationary. Ensure direction of the wand is across the cables and never following the cable length. Following this process prevents stationary contact with the cable at the end of the sweep.
- Apply wand pressure in the area around underground cable splices. Never allow the wand to have direct contact with the splice.

Moving In or Out of the Bonded Zone

- When exiting the bonded zone the pressure wand and vacuum tube must be removed from the excavation area to ensure electrical connection cannot occur between the underground cable and equipment.

Disclaimer

The following is provided for general information and education. Local utility rules and regulations may differ from the information provided. Consult your local governing utility before under taking any daylighting activities.

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