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HDD METHODOLOGY

The process of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a method of installing pipe/s typically to carry sub-surface utilities in an area where an obstacle is to be passed. Some examples are, Waterways, Roads and Motorways, Railways, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Areas below the water table, Depth of Pipe. The advantages of HDD are circumstantially diverse when considering Environmental and Social Impacts, Public-Pedestrian-Vehicular Traffic disruptions, Elimination or Minimization of Surface Disruption and is a preferred method of construction for many utility service installations worldwide.

NB: For further clarification on direct and specific process methods please refer to our CDS documentation including: OH&S and Environmental Management Plans, Work Method Statements.

Projects are broken down into four distinct phases:

1: Planning

This phase involves liaising with the client and other involved parties in what the expected outcome will be to ensure all parties are content with the plan and willing to proceed. This may consist of a variety of items, some of which may be. Client expectations, community consultation, Dial Before You Dig notification, utility locations and potholing, environmental and safety concerns, suitability of product pipe, traffic/pedestrian control plans, site specific inductions, foreseeable obstacles that can be addressed and bore plan profiles adjusted.

2: Drilling.

The second phase is where things start to happen on-site and consists of steps to follow on from the first phase. The basis of this phase is to install the pilot hole either from a surface or pit launched drilling machine following a pre-determined profile and alignment design from one side of the obstacle to be crossed until reaching either the surface or an exit pit at the opposing side of the obstacle being crossed.

3: Hole opening.

This phase consists of detaching the drill head and fitting a hole opener or back reamer to enlarge the hole to the required diameter for the product pipe to be accommodated. Using lubricating fluids pumped through the back reamer to mix the broken down excess spoil into a slurry. Which in turn is then either, re-circulated or disposed of in a vacuum tanker. The reaming process may take one or more passes along the pilot hole to either enlarge in stages or to ensure the hole is sufficiently cleaned of excess spoil to accommodate the clients product pipe.

4: Installation.

The final phase is the pullback of the product pipe.

As with phase three the back reamer and slurry are still used and the pipeline is attached to the rear of the back reamer via a swivel. The pipeline is then pulled through the pre reamed hole and continues until reaching the entry side of the obstacle. The now installed pipeline is capped and left for the client to continue with traditional methods of installation.