**GUIDANCE FOR PLUMBERS AND CONTRACTORS** Issued January 2023

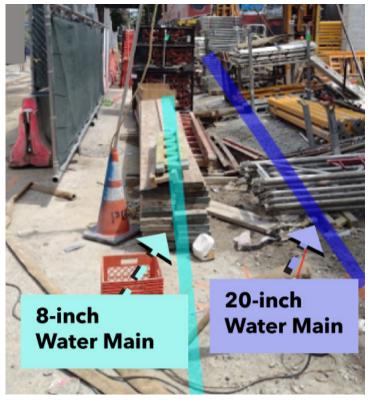


# Working in the Street:

# **Excavation and Access near PWD Infrastructure**



**Use caution near or within a street or Right-of-Way (ROW).** Water mains, sewers, and green infrastructure are close to the surface. Maintain access for any crews or emergency work.



**Above:** Material placement can severely delay emergency repairs and impact water customers.



**Above:** Construction fencing placed on top of a water main. This location wasn't shown on the approved E&S plan. The fence restricts access to infrastructure in an emergency.

# **Potential Issues**

Many improvements in the ROW can impact infrastructure, including:

- Curb cuts
- Utility trenches or depressions
- Vaults
- Egress wells, and more

**A location shift from approved plans** while in the field. We review plans for potential access issues.

**Construction equipment on top of sewers or water mains** can stress the pipes and cause damage, especially crane footings.

**Sedimentation Control:** During heavy rain, loose soil can wash away from the site. This leads to clogged inlets, standing water on the street and sewer damage.



Issues can result in costly repairs, fees, fines, or a Stop Work Order.

# **Best Practices**

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#### Call PA One Call at 8-1-1.

Arrange a field mark-out of the utilities surrounding your project.

Stay five (5) feet away from PWD infrastructure where feasible when excavating, whether on site or within the ROW.

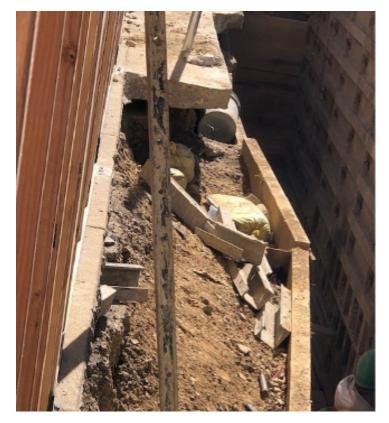
### Maintain PWD access to infrastructure in case of emergency.

- Temporary staging equipment: Avoid placing materials and equipment on top of water mains and sewers.
  Be prepared to move them quickly in case of emergency.
- Staging locations: For sites greater than 5,000 SF, staging locations must match the approved Erosion & Sediment Control plan. The E&S plan must always be kept on site.
- Crane footing locations: Crane footings may not be placed within the public ROW.
  If unavoidable, plans must be reviewed and approved by PWD's Design Unit.
  Infrastructure relocation may be required.

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### Use proper sheeting and shoring.

Follow all required City and OSHA requirements. Refer to Philadelphia Code Section P-1503.2 for more information.



**Above:** On-site excavation without proper shoring puts water mains at risk.

## You must contact us immediately in the event of damage:

Sewers, Water Mains, Fire Hydrants, Inlets: If damage occurs while digging: Secure the area, maintain flow, and call the PWD Contact Center: (215) 685-6300 If damage occurs installing or repairing a 5" or 6" sewer lateral, call the Water Transport Records Inspectors: (215) 410-6470, and PWD Contact Center: (215) 685-6300 If damage occurs while installing or repairing a sewer lateral 8" or greater, call the Plumbing Repairs Program Inspectors at (215) 397-7097, and PWD Contact Center: (215) 685-6300 **Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** If you damage GSI, such as a tree trench or vegetated planter, call Green Stormwater Operations at (**215**) **300-9079**