

## **CORING SAFE WORK PRACTICES**

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Coring is used in new construction to make openings in concrete to accommodate pipes where sleeving was not done or if plans have been revised. It is used in renovation work to make openings to change pipes or add new ones to the system.

Any time coring is done there is danger because, unless scans or x-rays are performed, it is “coring blind”. In renovation work in particular, as-builts may not be accurate or lines put in place in concrete may not be recorded because they may have been “temporary” but are still active.

### **Coring safe work practices**

The following safe work practices must be followed when coring:

- Obtain and consult as-builts of the area to be worked on Identify present lines and sources
- Do a task hazard assessment
- Set out proposed drill/core locations
- Where possible, use a locator or x-ray to pinpoint existing lines
- Erect warning signs to advise of the operation
- If done in a slab or wall, identify what is on the other side of the slab/wall
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) (rubber boots, gloves, etc.)
- Plan emergency procedures based on findings
- Conduct a pre-job meeting to warn of hazards and assign specific tasks
- Where water is being used, ensure that all workers in the area are advised of what is to take place and the hazards presented by the introduction of water into the operation (disposal of water, cores, etc.)
- When coring vertically, ensure a watch person is present below and the drop area is secured

**Caution:** *Be prepared for unexpected movement and snagging on “Q” decking, re-bar, and stones.*