HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING BEST PRACTICES

For Operators

PRE-DRILLING

- The operator should read, understand, and follow the operator’s manual.
- The operator should become familiar with the work area.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as required by the task being performed and as required per OSHA regulations.
- Ensure that a competent person is on site.
- When refueling, bond the supply tank with the fuel tank to prevent static discharge and possible fire.
- Verify that all overhead power lines in the drilling area have been marked.
- Conduct a walk around inspection checking all fluids and noting any items needing maintenance and repair. Ensure all critical repairs are performed before operation.
- Make sure all warning labels are legible. Those not legible must be cleaned or replaced.
- Remove debris and clutter in the cab that would prevent safe operation.
- Verify operation and accuracy of tracking equipment.
- Use 3 points of contact to enter the machine.
- Get on the machine only at locations that have steps and/or handholds. If the machine has none, advise your supervisor immediately.
- Do not use any controls as handholds when entering or exiting the operator compartment.
- Check to ensure the seat belt is operational. Always use the seat belt when operating the piece of equipment.
- Check that controls are in proper settings before starting the machine.

DRILLING
• Perform all operations in compliance with OSHA, EPA, DOT, and any other regulatory agency’s guidelines.

• Only qualified personnel shall operate equipment. A qualified person through knowledge, skills, and experience has demonstrated their ability to operate the equipment.

• Verify that the one call (811) has been made and that utilities are marked and depth verified before the commencement of drilling activities.

• Set up equipment maintaining the minimum requirement of clearance between the equipment and facilities.

• The competent person shall appoint a spotter if there are overhead power lines, underground utilities, or tight working conditions in the work area.

• The drilling operator shall be in charge of the controls at all times during the equipment operation.

• The drilling operator shall maintain clear communications with all necessary personnel.

• Only approved methods and equipment shall be used to connect or disconnect components from the drilling system.

• Maintain a safe work area around the entry and exit points.

• All unnecessary personnel shall be prohibited from the work area.
POST DRILLING

- Any open excavation shall be protected from unauthorized entry.
- Protect any exposed ends of pipe if necessary from foreign materials.
- After drilling, properly dispose of materials as necessary. Notify your supervisor upon completion of the authorized work.

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