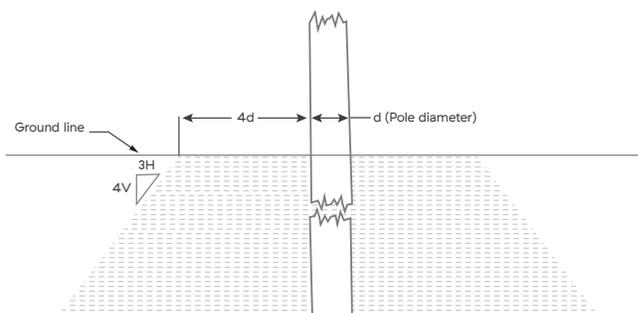


## Digging near power poles

If you're excavating near BC Hydro power poles, you must follow the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) to ensure safety of yourself and others, and to avoid damage to poles. A major risk is undermining the stability of poles, which can cause them to fall.

The following information may help your qualified registered professional prepare the engineering documents required for excavations under Section 20.78 of the WorkSafeBC OHSR:

The protected zone extends away from the pole for four times the pole diameter at the ground line and then must project downward and away from the ground line at a slope of 3 metres horizontal for every 4 metres vertical. See illustration below.



Poles must be supported if:

- the soil is not firm, or
- excavation takes place within the shaded area shown in the illustration.

All temporary slope cuts near the pole must be protected at all times and constructed in accordance with the WorkSafeBC Regulation.

This applies to all members of the public and discusses only one of the risks associated with excavating or working near BC Hydro power poles. Always follow WorkSafeBC procedures for working near energized conductors.

### Plan ahead before digging

- For inquiries about digging near BC Hydro poles, call us at 1 800 BCHYDRO (1 800 224 9376)
- Visit [worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com) for more information about hazards and applicable safety requirements
- Contact BC One Call before you dig. Visit [bconecall.bc.ca](http://bconecall.bc.ca) or 1 800 474 6886 for the location of underground utilities.