SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

Business name

Document: SWMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Gas fitting and appliance connection	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Plumbing

2. HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK COVERED BY THIS SWMS

	Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres		Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
	Work on a telecommunication tower		Work on or near energised electrical installations or services
	Demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing or related to its physical integrity		Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
	Likely to involve disturbing asbestos		Work involving tilt-up or precast concrete elements
	Structural alterations or repairs that require temporary support to prevent collapse		Work on, in or next to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians
	Work in or near a confined space		Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant
	Work in or near a shaft or trench with an excavated depth greater than 1.5 metres		Work in an area with artificial extremes of temperature
	Work in or near a tunnel		Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning
	Use of explosives		Diving work
	Work on or near pressurised gas distribution mains or piping		

3. JOB STEPS, HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Only a licensed gasfitter does this work. Tell occupants and remove ignition sources	Gas and fuel lines Working in an occupied home or building	**High** **Unlikely / Catastrophic**	1.1 Isolate and purge the line before work, with the owner's approval. [Eliminate] 1.2 Lock off and tag the isolation valve. [Isolate] 1.3 Check for leaks with a gas detector before and during work, and ventilate the area. [Engineering] 1.4 Only licensed gasfitters work on gas lines. [Administrative] 1.5 Remove ignition sources: no smoking, no hot work and no sparking tools near the line. [Administrative] 1.6 Know where the shut-off valve is and what to do if a leak happens.	**Medium** **Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				[Administrative] 1.7 Wear safety glasses and gloves, and keep a fire extinguisher close by. [PPE] 1.8 Plan noisy, dusty or risky work for when the building is empty. [Eliminate] 1.9 Close off the work area with barriers, plastic sheeting or locked doors, and put up signs. [Isolate] 1.10 Keep fire exits and paths clear at all times. [Administrative] 1.11 Tell occupants before you turn off power, water or gas, and before noisy or dusty work. [Administrative] 1.12 Lock away tools, chemicals and materials each day, out of reach of children. [Administrative] 1.13 Clean up dust and debris at the end of each day. [Administrative]		
2	Isolate gas at the meter, lock out and danger tag, and purge the line	Gas and fuel lines Stored energy Fire and emergencies Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, regulation 43 (emergency plans)	**High Unlikely / Catastrophic**	2.1 Gas and fuel lines: see step 1 for the full controls [Administrative] 2.2 Release or block all stored energy before work: release the pressure in pipes, tanks and hoses, bleed hydraulics, release springs, lower loads. [Eliminate] 2.3 Lock out and tag all energy sources with personal locks. [Isolate] 2.4 Put mechanical blocks or props under raised parts like buckets, tipper bodies and doors. [Engineering] 2.5 Test that the system is dead and nothing can move before you start. [Administrative] 2.6 Follow the maker's procedure, for example for garage door and roller door springs. [Administrative] 2.7 Provide fire extinguishers suited to the site, checked and easy to reach. [Engineering] 2.8 Keep exits and escape routes clear and signed. [Engineering] 2.9 Have a site emergency plan: alarm, exits, assembly point and emergency contacts. [Administrative] 2.10 Keep a stocked first aid kit and at least one trained first aider on site. [Administrative] 2.11 Know the site address and how emergency services get in. Call 000. [Administrative]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor
3	Run and join new pipe, checking there are no electrical cables in the way	Electric shock from live wiring Injury from power tools Tight spaces: roof spaces and under floors Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.7 General electrical safety	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	3.1 Isolate the power before any work. Do not do live work except in the limited cases the WHS Regulations allow (r.157; in Qld, the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013). [Eliminate] 3.2 Lock out and tag the isolation point with your own personal lock and danger tag. [Isolate] 3.3 Test before you touch: prove dead at the point of work with a voltage tester, proving the tester on a known live source before and after (AS/NZS 4836). [Engineering] 3.4 Only licensed electricians do electrical work. [Administrative] 3.5 Check for back feeds from solar, batteries and generators that can keep a circuit live after the main switch is off. [Administrative] 3.6 Keep all guards fitted and working. Never tie back or remove a guard. [Engineering]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				3.7 Clamp or secure the work piece. Do not hold it by hand. [Engineering] 3.8 Only trained, competent people use power tools, following the maker's instructions. [Administrative] 3.9 Check tools before use. Unplug or remove the battery before changing blades or bits. [Administrative] 3.10 No loose clothing, jewellery or long hair near spinning parts. [Administrative] 3.11 Do as much of the work as you can from outside the tight space. [Eliminate] 3.12 Turn the power off at the switchboard before entering where you can, as damaged cables may be live. [Isolate] 3.13 Lay crawl boards across the joists so you cannot step through the ceiling. [Engineering] 3.14 Set up ventilation and lighting in the space. [Engineering] 3.15 Limit time in hot roof spaces and take breaks somewhere cool. [Administrative]		
4	Connect the appliance and seal all joints	Gas and fuel lines Lifting and carrying heavy loads Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.2 Hazardous manual tasks	**High Likely / Moderate**	4.1 Gas and fuel lines: see step 1 for the full controls [Administrative] 4.2 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 4.3 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Substitute] 4.4 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Engineering] 4.5 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Administrative] 4.6 Keep the load close, back straight and no twisting. Turn with your feet. [Administrative] 4.7 Rotate tasks and take breaks on long lifting jobs. [Administrative] 4.8 Wear gloves for grip and safety boots to protect your feet. [PPE]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor
5	Pressure and leak test, then light and commission the appliance	Pressure testing Gas and fuel lines Fire from hot works Rules: AS 1674.1 Safety in welding and allied processes (fire precautions)	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	5.1 Test with water instead of air or gas where the system allows it. Never put water in refrigerant pipework, which is tested with dry nitrogen. [Substitute] 5.2 Keep people out of the test area with signs and barriers. [Isolate] 5.3 Use a calibrated gauge and a relief valve set to protect the system. [Engineering] 5.4 Test to the pressure the system calls for and hold it for the set time. Never go over. [Administrative] 5.5 Release the pressure fully before tightening anything or fixing leaks. [Administrative] 5.6 Gas and fuel lines: see step 1 for the full controls [Administrative] 5.7 Use cold work methods where you can, such as bolting, press fittings or cutting with a saw instead of a torch. [Eliminate] 5.8 Move anything that can burn at least 15 metres away (AS 1674.1), or protect it with fire blankets or screens. [Isolate] 5.9 Use fire-resistant screens to stop sparks reaching people or gaps in walls and floors. [Engineering]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				5.10 Get a hot work permit before starting. [Administrative] 5.11 Keep a charged fire extinguisher and fire blanket at the work spot. [Administrative]		
6	Issue the compliance certificate and clean up	Poor housekeeping and waste	**Medium** **Likely / Minor**	6.1 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 6.2 Put skip bins and waste chutes close to the work. [Engineering] 6.3 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Administrative] 6.4 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Administrative] 6.5 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Administrative] 6.6 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE]	**Low** **Unlikely / Minor**	Site supervisor

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Extreme. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control: Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Steel cap boots Safety glasses Work gloves P2 dust mask Hearing protection (earmuffs or plugs) Knee pads Hard hat Face shield Welding gloves Overalls	Electrical isolation permit Hot work permit

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Hand tools					
Pipe press tool					
Electrical test equipment		Check leads and probes before use; prove the voltage tester on a known live source or proving unit before and after each test for dead; calibrate at the maker's interval			
Power drill		Test and tag every 3 months on construction sites (AS/NZS 3012); visual check and RCD push-button test before use			

6. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

7. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	000	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout for help and stop work. Make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Call the emergency number and send someone to meet the ambulance.
Reporting incidents	Notify the regulator immediately of any notifiable incident and preserve the site.		

8. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE CONTROLS

How they are put in place	Controls are set up before the work starts. The person responsible explains this SWMS to every worker before they start, and workers sign to confirm they understand it.	**How they are monitored**	The person responsible checks the controls are in place before work starts each day and during the work, and talks to the workers about any problems. Stop work and review this SWMS if the work changes, the controls are not working, after any incident, or if a worker raises a concern.
When it is reviewed	Reviewed when the work or site changes, after any incident, if a control is not working, or if a worker or health and safety representative asks.		

Legal basis: Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011, Part 6.3 (Victoria: OHS Regulations 2017). A SWMS must be prepared before any high risk construction work starts. It must list the high risk work, the hazards and risks, the control measures, and how those controls will be put in place, monitored and reviewed. It must be easy for the workers to read and understand.

Keep this SWMS, and every revised version, until the high risk construction work is finished, where workers and inspectors can see it on site. If a notifiable incident happens during the work, keep it for at least 2 years after the incident.

9. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

10. SIGN-OFF

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Person responsible (supervisor)				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each worker confirms they were consulted on and have read and understood this SWMS, and will follow it. If the work cannot be done as this SWMS says, stop as soon as it is safe and do not restart until the SWMS is reviewed.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date