

General Liability Control Playbook for Utility Tie-Ins

Contractor Checklist

Objective

Reduce general liability exposure from utility tie-in work involving:

- Underground utilities
- Energized systems
- Water and sewer connections

Focus areas: **bodily injury, property damage, service disruption, and downstream impacts.**

Pre-Work Planning

Define the Work

- ☐ Identify all utility tie-ins (gas, electric, telecom, water, sewer)
- ☐ Confirm work near ROW, easements, or adjacent property
- ☐ Evaluate exposure to public, traffic, or nearby structures

Assign Responsibility

- ☐ Designate responsible lead for tie-in planning and execution
- ☐ Confirm authority for stop work, approvals, and final sign-off

Utility Location & Verification

Before Excavation

- ☐ Request utility locates (one-call and direct utility contact as needed)
- ☐ Review plans, as-builts, and available utility data
- ☐ Confirm response timelines and markings

Field Verification

- ☐ Verify marked utilities onsite
- ☐ Use appropriate locating methods if conditions are unclear
- ☐ Treat all markings as approximate



Excavation & Ground Disturbance Controls

Before Digging

- ☐ Establish dig limits and tolerance zones
- ☐ Use a ground disturbance permit process when applicable

During Work

- ☐ Use controlled excavation methods near known utilities
- ☐ Protect or support exposed utilities
- ☐ Monitor changing site or soil conditions

Public Protection

- ☐ Secure excavation area
- ☐ Implement traffic and pedestrian controls as needed

Electrical & Energized Systems

Identify Risks

- ☐ Locate energized lines above and below ground
- ☐ Confirm temporary and permanent electrical systems

Apply Controls

- ☐ Use isolation / lockout procedures where applicable
- ☐ Limit work to qualified personnel
- ☐ Control energization and cutover sequencing

Water & Sewer Tie-Ins

Before Connection

- ☐ Confirm tie-in points and shutoff capability
- ☐ Coordinate with utility/municipality

During Work

- ☐ Control releases and monitor system pressure
- ☐ Watch for leaks, instability, or uncontrolled flow

Contamination Risk

- ☐ Prevent cross-connections
- ☐ Verify separation of potable and nonpotable systems
- ☐ Confirm backflow prevention where required

Coordination & Communication

Internal

- ☐ Align crews, supervisors, and subcontractors
- ☐ Confirm sequence before work begins

External

- ☐ Coordinate with utilities, inspectors, and authorities
- ☐ Communicate timing of tie-in and service impacts

Documentation

- ☐ Record utility locate requests and confirmations
- ☐ Document field verification and conditions
- ☐ Capture approvals before excavation or tie-in
- ☐ Note changes, conflicts, or unexpected conditions

Final Tie-In & Restoration

Before Restoration

- ☐ Verify connections are complete and secure
- ☐ Confirm no damage occurred during work

Testing

- ☐ Perform pressure / leak / functional testing
- ☐ Confirm system integrity

Restoration

- ☐ Restore service in controlled sequence
- ☐ Monitor for failure or downstream impact

Completed Operations Awareness

- ☐ Confirm systems function as intended post-installation
- ☐ Verify no residual hazards remain
- ☐ Document final inspection and turnover



Quick Check (Field Use)

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| ☐ Utilities located and verified |
| ☐ Excavation controls in place |
| ☐ Energized systems identified and controlled |
| ☐ Water/sewer risks addressed |
| ☐ Public and adjacent property protected |
| ☐ Responsibilities assigned |
| ☐ Documentation complete |
| ☐ Testing and verification complete |

Key Takeaway

Utility tie-ins create high-consequence general liability exposure due to direct interaction with active systems and public infrastructure.

Consistent planning, verification, and control can materially reduce the risk of:

- Third-party bodily injury
- Property damage
- Service interruption
- Downstream claims

