INSIDE IN-LINE / HYDRO-EXCAVATION · POTHOLING · DAMAGE PREVENTION

An Auger Finds the Line by Cutting It.

Water does not cut fiber. Hydro-excavation, on our own vacuum trailer — because the cheapest utility strike is the one that never happens.



Our hydro-vacuum trailer, in our own yard, with our name on the tank. High-pressure water to cut the soil, vacuum to lift it out, and nothing rotating anywhere near your conduit.

METHOD
Pressurised water & vacuum

DAMAGE RISK
No blade, no bucket, no teeth

FINDS
Fiber · conduit · gas · water · sewer

HOLE
Exact size, no over-dig

ACCESS
Tight spots, on the hose

OWNERSHIP
Ours. Not rented.

THE MACHINE YOU ARE USING CANNOT SEE

An auger is a rotating steel blade you put into ground you cannot see into. It does not detect anything. It does not stop. The way it tells you there was a fiber optic line at four feet is by cutting through it.

So does a bucket. So does a trencher. So does a rock bit. Every mechanical digging tool on a job site shares the same design flaw: **it discovers what is buried by destroying it.**

Hydro-excavation does not work that way. High-pressure water breaks the soil apart and a vacuum lifts the slurry out of the hole. The water cuts dirt and clay. **It does not cut fiber optic cable, electrical conduit, gas line, water main, sewer lateral, irrigation or telecom duct bank.** You can hydro-excavate directly onto a live utility and expose it clean, undamaged, and safe to work around.

The auger has one job and it does it perfectly: it removes whatever is in front of it. That is exactly the problem.

WHAT A STRIKE ACTUALLY COSTS

The repair is almost never the expensive part.

- **Fiber optic.** You did not break a cable, you took down a service. Splice crews, an outage that belongs to somebody else's customers, and a claim that follows the general contractor, not the auger operator.
- **Electrical conduit.** Arc flash. That is a life-safety event before it is a repair bill, and it stops the whole site while it is investigated.
- **Gas.** Evacuation, fire department, utility emergency response, and a very bad afternoon on the news.
- **Sewer and water.** Contamination, wash-out of the surrounding soil, and a hole that has to be re-engineered before anything can be built in it.
- **The schedule.** Every one of the above stops your trade *and* the trades behind you. That is the cost nobody puts in the estimate.

Set against that, a potholing crew is one of the cheapest line items on the job.

DIG ALERT DOES NOT COVER THE PART THAT HURTS YOU

This is the misunderstanding that causes most of the strikes we see.

Calling 811 gets the **public** utilities marked in the right of way. It does not mark the private, on-site utilities inside the property line — the site lighting, the irrigation main, the data run between two buildings, the abandoned conduit nobody has as-builts for, the sewer lateral the landscape contractor put in nine years ago.

On a school campus, a hospital, a base or a park, that is most of what is under your feet. It is unmarked, undocumented, and it is exactly where the post holes go.

In-Line's own contracts say so in writing. On the Polinsky Children's Center, In-Line is responsible for identifying all existing underground utilities before excavating — *public and private* — and exposing them by **hand or vacuum excavation only, in six-inch lifts**. On the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit, potholing and vacuum truck excavation is written into In-Line's scope as a contractual responsibility.

Balfour Beatty's standard goes further: utilities **potholed every 25 feet for lines under eight inches and every 50 feet for larger**, at least **two potholes per utility** in the work zone regardless of size, and **hand digging within three feet of anything energized**.

In-Line signs those clauses instead of negotiating them out — because we own the rig that satisfies them.

WHAT HYDRO-EXCAVATION DOES BETTER

It digs big holes, not just test holes

Potholing to find a line is the obvious use. It is not the only one. Our vacuum trailer digs **full-size holes** — footings, pole bases, pier holes, tank pits — in congested ground where nobody would risk a machine.

The hole is exactly the hole you asked for

No over-excavation, no sloughing, no undermining the slab next to it. That means less spoil to haul, less backfill to buy, less compaction to test, and no surprise settlement next to your new pavement.

It goes where machines cannot

The work happens at the end of a hose. Between buildings, under a canopy, inside a courtyard, over a finished slab, next to a live playground — without tracking a machine across it.

It gets through hard ground without shock

Caliche, compacted base, rock pocket, frozen crust, root ball. Water gets into it and lifts it out without hammering the surrounding soil — or the utility running through it.

It is safer for the person holding it

Nothing rotates. Nothing binds. Nobody is standing over a spinning auger next to an energized duct bank hoping the as-builts were right.

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Blades near your utilities

25 / 50 ft
Pothole intervals we work to

3 ft
No-mechanical-digging zone around live lines

Same day
Rig is in Ramona, not on hire somewhere

Hydro-vacuum excavation · utility potholing and daylighting · full-size hole excavation · slot trenching · debris and slurry hauled and disposed · operated by In-Line crews under our own IIPP, activity hazard analysis and daily safety brief.

HIRE THE RIG ON ITS OWN

You do not have to buy a fence to get this crew.

- **Utility potholing and daylighting** before your excavation starts — so your machine operator knows exactly what is down there and exactly where.
- **Pre-bid investigation.** Find out what is really under the site before you price the job, not after you have signed for it.
- **Emergency response.** Something got hit, or something has to be exposed today without touching it. We can be there.
- **Full-size excavation in congested ground** — footings and pole bases where a machine is not worth the risk.
- **By the hour, on published time-and-equipment rates**, or lump sum against a count of holes.

The rig lives in our yard in Ramona. It is not on hire to somebody else and it is not a phone call to a specialty sub who will call you back Thursday.

Hundreds of dollars to pothole it. Thousands to fix it, plus the outage, plus the delay, plus the report. That is the entire argument, and every superintendent already knows it.

WHY IT IS US

- **We own it.** Our trailer, our name on the tank, our operators — not a rental with a day-rate driver who has never seen your site.
- **We dig for a living.** This company sets thousands of posts a year on school campuses, military bases, hospitals, parks and transit corridors. We are not learning your site conditions on your job.
- **We already work to the strictest standards in the state.** Turner, Balfour Beatty, Swinerton, C.W. Driver, NAVFAC and Caltrans — their utility-locating and Zero Harm requirements are what our crews do by default.
- **We can do the rest of it too.** Once the hole is open, we grade, backfill, compact, haul the spoils and set the steel. Here is the dirt side of the business.

Call before you dig. Then call us to dig.

HAVE A PROJECT LIKE THIS?

In-Line Fence & Railing has built fence, railing, and guardrail for Southern California public works, utilities, school districts, and government agencies since 1990.

Call (760) 789-0282 | **Request an Estimate**

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