

OSHA Standard Is Clear on Underground Installations

OSHA's CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REGULATIONS 29 CFR 1926, SUBPART P - EXCAVATIONS, contains the language that guides contractors and utilities on what OSHA calls "underground installations." The following is taken directly from that section of the Standard:

SECTION 1926.651 — SPECIFIC EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS.
(b) Underground installations.

- (1) *The estimated location of utility installations, such as sewer, telephone, fuel, electric, water lines, or any other underground installations that reasonably may be expected to be encountered during excavation work, shall be determined prior to opening an excavation.*
- (2) *Utility companies or owners shall be contacted within established or customary local response times, advised of the proposed work, and asked to establish the location of the utility underground installations prior to the start of actual excavation. When*

"Call before you dig"

The One-Call System: It Saves Time, Lives...Even Money

Everyday in America there are untold numbers of people involved in some form of excavation activity.

Disturbing or digging in the earth can lead to accidental damage of underground pipes, lines, or cables that may be just below the surface. The risk is even greater when using mechanized equipment.

Besides the possibility of being

very dangerous, a damaged facility can instantly put hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of customers many miles away out of service.

TAKE THREE STEPS

Three steps can avoid such accidents:

1. Find out what may be underground at the work site,
2. Determine who owns the underground work,
3. Have the locations clearly marked.

There was a time when that was not very practical or easy to do. Years ago, utility companies recognized this problem, and helped establish one-call systems to enable anyone planning to dig to make just one telephone call and request information about the location of utility lines at their work site. This call is referred to by several names: a "locate request," a "ticket," or even a "one-call."



In St. Paul, Minn., a backhoe struck a gas line as a city crew was repairing a sewer. Despite efforts to evacuate nearby buildings, three people died and 11 were injured in the ensuing explosion and fire.

“ONE CALL” FROM PAGE 1

There is no charge for the service. One-Call member utilities underwrite the service, they provide utility mapping information to the call center, and they locate and mark their lines, cables, and pipes for the excavator.

FOUR POINTS = FEW PROBLEMS

While laws vary from state to state as to response-time requirements and other specifics, the basics can be summarized in the four points of the national safety campaign called “Dig Safely”:

1. Call before you dig.
2. Wait the required amount of time.
3. Respect the marks.
4. Dig with care.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

This allows the utilities that have lines in conflict with the work to locate and mark those lines. One



In Abilene, Tex., workers on a highway construction project severed a 900-pair and a 100-pair telephone cable, cutting off service to 600 local homes and businesses.

thing that helps the accuracy and timeliness of the locating process is “white marking” the work site. Doing so allows the excavator to communicate to the utility locator precisely where he intends to dig.

Call centers receive requests from all sorts of excavators, including utilities and utility contractors, state and federal employees, developers, county and city employees, landscapers, fence builders, plumbers, electricians, farmers, and homeowners.

Call center Customer Service Representatives will ask for specific information about the location and type of work to be done. The quality of the

SEE “ONE CALL” ON NEXT PAGE...

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Excavation Safety News

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This newsletter provides a brief overview of safety regulations and systems. It is not intended to provide specific legal or engineering advice. Please refer to OSHA CFR29, Part 1926, Subpart P, “Excavation and Trenches,” and to other governmental regulations, and to manufacturers’ instructions for specific information.

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“ONE CALL” FROM PAGE 2

information provided has a major impact on the success of the damage-prevention process.

When a member utility receives a notice of someone’s intent to dig, the request is sent to the utility’s “locator.” The locator is responsible for determining the exact location of any underground facilities, and clearly marking it in a way that the excavator can avoid it.

Just as the excavator communicates the specific dig site to the locator with white marks, the utility locators communicate

with the excavators using colored paint marks or small flags. Locators use standard markings and a specific color for each utility type. The excavator knows that all the utilities the Customer Service Representative listed on his ticket have been marked.

Arkansas One Call System

(800) 482-8998

Mississippi One Call System

(800) 227-6477 or (601) 362-4374

Tennessee One Call System

(800) 351-1111 or (615) 367-1111

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE COLOR

Below is the accepted color scheme of locator marks:

- RED = electrical lines
- YELLOW = natural gas, petroleum products, and gaseous materials
- ORANGE = telephone cables, cable TV, and other communication lines
- BLUE = potable (drinking) water
- GREEN = sewer lines
- PURPLE = irrigation lines
- PINK = surveys.

Rebuilding and maintaining the infrastructure is critical to

our nation’s economy, and is being done one trench at a time. For most of us it would appear to be an impossible task, yet the professional excavator does it everyday. How? Everyone involved is making good decisions and respecting the needs of everyone else involved in the damage-prevention process.

Why? Because “it’s the right thing to do.”



In Washington, DC, a utility crew inadvertently damaged a water main. Just imagine the unplanned-for project costs: repair to the line, water removal, clean up, and lost production time.

“OSHA STANDARD” FROM PAGE 1

utility companies or owners cannot respond to a request to locate underground utility installations within 24 hours (unless a longer period is required by state or local law), or cannot establish the exact location of these installations, the employer may proceed, provided the employer does so with caution, and provided detection equipment or other acceptable means to locate utility installations are used.

(3) When excavation operations approach the estimated location of underground installations, the exact location of the installations shall be determined by safe and acceptable means.

(4) While the excavation is open, underground installations shall be protected, supported or removed as necessary to safeguard employees.

See back page for a complete list of One-Call Centers Nationwide

TrenchSafety and Supply, Inc.

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Memphis, TN 38116

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One-Call Centers Nationwide

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ALASKA

Locate Call Center of Alaska, Inc.
(800) 478-3121

ARIZONA

Arizona Blue Stake, Inc.
(800) 782-5348

ARKANSAS

Arkansas One Call System, Inc.
(800) 482-8998

CALIFORNIA

Underground Service Alert North
(800) 227-2600
Underground Service Alert South
(800) 227-2600 or (800) 422-4133

COLORADO

Utility Notification Center of Colorado
(800) 922-1987 or (800) 833-9417

CONNECTICUT

Call Before You Dig
(800) 922-4455 or (203) 281-5435

DELAWARE

Miss Utility of Delmarva
(800) 282-8555 or (800) 441-8355

FLORIDA

Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc.
(800) 432-4770

GEORGIA

Utilities Protection Center, Inc.
(800) 282-7411 or (770) 623-4344

HAWAII

Underground Service Alert North
(800) 227-2600

IDAHO

Dig Line
(800) 342-1585 or (208) 342-1585
Palouse Empire Underground
Coordinating Council
(800) 822-1974
Pass Word
(800) 428-4950 or (208) 667-7491
Utilities Underground Location Center
(800) 424-5555
One Call Concepts - Idaho
(800) 626-4950 or (800) 822-1974
Shoshone County One Call
(800) 398-3285 or (208) 667-7491

ILLINOIS

JULIE, Inc.
(800) 892-0123
In Chicago: Digger
(312) 744-7000

INDIANA

Indiana Underground Plant Protection
Service, Inc.
(800) 382-5544

IOWA

Underground Plant Location Service, Inc.
(800) 292-8989 or (319) 322-2400

KANSAS

Kansas One Call Center
(800) DIG-SAFE or (316) 687-2470

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Underground Protection, Inc.
(800) 752-6007 or (502) 266-5677

LOUISIANA

Louisiana One Call System, Inc.
(800) 272-3020

MAINE

Dig Safe System, Inc. - Maine
(888) 344-7233 or (781) 721-0990

MARYLAND

Miss Utility of Delmarva
(800) 282-8555 or (800) 441-8355
Miss Utility
(800) 257-7777

MASSACHUSETTS

Dig Safe System, Inc. - Massachusetts
(888) 344-7233 or (781) 721-0990

MICHIGAN

Miss Dig System, Inc.
(800) 482-7171 or (248) 647-7344

MINNESOTA

Gopher State One Call
(800) 252-1166 or (651) 454-0002

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi One Call System, Inc.
(800) 227-6477 or (601) 362-4374

MISSOURI

Missouri One Call System, Inc.
(800) 344-7483 or (412) 415-5058

MONTANA

Utilities Underground Location Center
(800) 424-5555 or (800) 551-8344
Montana One Call
(800) 551-8344

NEBRASKA

Diggers Hotline of Nebraska
(800) 331-5666 or (402) 344-3565

NEVADA

Underground Service Alert North
(800) 227-2600

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dig Safe System, Inc. - New Hampshire
(888) 344-7233 or (781) 721-0990

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey One Call
(800) 272-1000 or (732) 394-3000

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico One Call System, Inc.
(800) 321-ALERT or (505) 260-1990
Las Cruces-Dona Ana Utility Council
(888) 526-0400 or (505) 526-0400

NEW YORK

Dig Safely New York, Inc.
1-800-962-7962
New York City - Long Island One Call
Center
(800) 272-4480

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina One-Call Center
(800) 632-4949 or (336) 855-7799

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota One Call
(800) 795-0555

OHIO

Ohio Utilities Protection Service
(800) 362-2764
Oil and Gas Producers Underground
Protection Service
(800) 925-0988

OKLAHOMA

Call Okie
(800) 522-6543 or (800) 654-8249

OREGON

Oregon Utility Notification Center
(800) 332-2344 or (503) 246-6699

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.
(800) 242-1776 or (412) 464-7100

RHODE ISLAND

Dig Safe - Rhode Island
(888) 344-7233 or (781) 721-0990

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Utility Protection Service
(800) 922-0983 or (803) 939-1117

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota One Call
(800) 781-7474 or (412) 415-5000

TENNESSEE

Tennessee One Call System
(800) 351-1111 or (615) 367-1111

TEXAS

Lone Star Notification Center
(800) 669-8344 or (713) 223-4567
Texas Excavation Safety System
(800) 344-8377
Texas One Call System
(800) 245-4545 or (412) 415-5000

UTAH

Blue Stakes of Utah Utility Notification
Center, Inc.
(800) 662-4111 or (801) 532-5000

VERMONT

Dig Safe - Vermont
(888) 344-7233 or (781) 721-0990

VIRGINIA

Miss Utility of Virginia
(800) 552-7001
Miss Utility
(800) 257-7777
Miss Utility of Delmarva
(800) 441-8355

WASHINGTON

Washington Call Before You Dig
(800) 424-5555

WASHINGTON, DC

Miss Utility
(800) 257-7777

WEST VIRGINIA

Miss Utility of West Virginia
(800) 245-4848 or (412) 415-5065

WISCONSIN

Diggers Hotline
(800) 242-8511 or (414) 259-0676

WYOMING

Wyoming One-Call
(800) 348-1030
Call Before You Dig of Wyoming
(800) 849-247 or (307) 266-5661
Utilities Underground Location Center
(800) 454-5555