Introduction: Excavators and their employees must be alert to possible underground utilities whenever doing dirt work. By following utility safety best practices, companies and crews can avoid injuries and unnecessary damage. Please review this document with everyone on your excavation jobsite. Review the need to protect and respect the utility locate marks!

SAFETY TIPS

DON'T GAMBLE WITH SAFETY!
STRIKING AN UNDERGROUND UTILITY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURIES, INCLUDING DEATH.
UTILITY DAMAGE CAN LEAD TO COSTLY FINES AND LOCAL SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS.

Learn more about trench and excavation safety.
Find OSHA’s trenching and excavation safety requirements, 1926 Subpart P, at www.osha.gov.

1. Never enter an unsafe, deep trench without cave-in protection.
2. Provide cave-in protection for all employees working in trenches deeper than 5 feet.
3. Due to soil conditions, some trenches less than 5’ in depth may need shoring or a trench box.
4. Provide a ladder on all trenches 4 feet or deeper.
5. Inspect trenches for hazards and unsafe conditions often.
6. Protect workers from overhead power line hazards.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a qualified safety professional.