

MOCGA Toolbox Talk

Emergency Utility Damage



Introduction: Utility lines, cables and pipelines give our lives comfort and convenience. But they can also be deadly when damaged. Construction crews should understand the power contained in underground utilities, and how to handle utility emergencies that may arise on the jobsite. Review this safety document with jobsite employees and foremen.

SAFETY TIPS

THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES THAT CAN CREATE DANGER FOR EXCAVATORS AND EMPLOYEES.

- ✓ Telephone and cable television lines
- ✓ Fiber optic communication lines
- ✓ Natural gas and propane lines
- ✓ Hazardous liquid and gas pipelines
- ✓ Electricity distribution
- ✓ Water lines
- ✓ Ducts
- ✓ Steam lines
- ✓ Sewers

Underground utilities expose workers to these hazards:

- ✓ High pressures and explosion
- ✓ Fire, steam and burns
- ✓ Static electricity
- ✓ Electric shock and electrocution
- ✓ Extreme noise
- ✓ Toxic gases and suffocation
- ✓ Flying object hazards

DIG WITH CAUTION.

RESPECT THE MARKS.

AVOID MECHANIZED EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT WHEN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO UTILITY LINES.

EXCAVATE WITH CARE AND SAFETY IN MIND!

IF A HAZARDOUS LIQUID OR GAS PIPELINE HAS BEEN STRUCK AND DAMAGED, DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Dial 911, notifying emergency services.
2. Evacuate employees from the immediate area.
3. Shut down all equipment and extinguish ignition sources like smoking.
4. Do not attempt to self-repair the leak. Wait for trained personnel.
5. Notify the Missouri One Call System about the damaged utility at 1-800-DIG-RITE.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR KEEPING EXCAVATION JOBSITE WORKERS SAFE!

1. Perform a jobsite walk-around to identify utility warning markers and any other visible signs of buried utilities.
2. Use Ticket Check to verify that all utilities have responded to your locate request.
3. Photograph the jobsite and locate marks before digging.
4. Conduct a jobsite walk through and advise members on the crew of underground utility locations.
5. Protect all utility locate marks to avoid having to stop work to wait for remarks.
6. Always excavate with care.
7. Hand-dig within 2' of the utility to prevent injury and unnecessary damage.
8. Once exposed, protect utility lines from damage by wrapping and supporting them.

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.

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DATE OF TRAINING	INSTRUCTOR NAME
COMPANY NAME	LOCATION OF TRAINING
PARTICIPANT NAMES	
SAFETY MEETING NOTES	