

MOCGA Toolbox Talk

Buried Utility Safety



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
- ✓ Water lines
- ✓ Ducts
- ✓ Steam lines
- ✓ Sewers

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

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!

**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.
7. Beware moving machinery hazards like blind spots.

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	