

MOCGA Tailgate Talk

Safer Utility Locates



Introduction: The Missouri Underground Facility Safety and Damage Prevention statute (RSMo Chapter 319) provides for a notification center to be used by participating utilities to receive locate requests. Missouri One Call System, Inc. (MOCS), provides a single-point of contact for notification to its members through a website and 800-number operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This law applies to any person excavating in the state of Missouri. Never dig without having utilities located first!

BE SAFE!

- ✓ White line or white flag the dig site area to define your dig site. This will ensure that the entire area of excavation is located properly.
- ✓ Provide an accurate description of the dig site when placing your locate request.
- ✓ Hand dig within the approximate location. There is a 2-foot hand dig zone on either side of the marked buried facility. Hand digging will allow you to determine the exact location and expose the facility. This is the safest way to make sure that you don't damage the underground facility.
- ✓ When hand digging, keep the blade of the shovel parallel with the marks.
- ✓ Protect and support the facilities when exposed and backfill carefully to prevent damage to facilities and their coatings, and to provide support beneath to prevent the collapse or sagging of the facilities.
- ✓ Call in a "remark" if the marks become unclear at your dig site. Work disturbance and weather can cause the markings to become obliterated, obscured, missing or incorrect. Never go off your memory of where the marks were. Be safe. Contact M.O.C.S. for a "remark".

EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY SEE INDICATORS OF UTILITIES, AND YOU MAY "THINK IT'S CLEAR" OR THAT YOU "KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING IS" - ALWAYS CALL 1-800-DIG-RITE!



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 Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 02-16-2019 by MW

What not to do:

- ✓ Do not work off someone else's marks or ticket.
- ✓ Never allow anyone to dig on your property without contacting Missouri One Call first.
- ✓ Don't begin work without confirming utilities' responses.
- ✓ Don't assume that facilities always run straight between markers.
- ✓ Never assume the depth of a facility or that the depth will stay the same.
- ✓ Don't assume that an unmarked line is abandoned.
- ✓ Don't take for granted the exposed utility line is the only one there.
- ✓ Don't use picks, mattocks, pry bars or hand or mechanically dig within the "Approximate Location"
- ✓ Do not remove the flags or paint marks until you are finished with your work.

What are the most common causes of utility damage?

- ✓ Working without a request.
- ✓ Working outside the area described on the locate request.
- ✓ Beginning excavation before the start date and time.
- ✓ Failure to exercise due care while digging, blind boring or directional drilling in the "approximate location" of underground utilities.
- ✓ Beginning work before all utilities at the site have marked or responded
- ✓ Assuming the depth of a facility.
- ✓ Assuming that the "approximate location" marks are exactly accurate and mechanically digging right up to the marks.

