

Underground Utility Safety

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 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 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 Missouri One Call for them to remark the site.










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 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 the 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.

APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODES	
	RED: Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
	ORANGE: Communications, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit, traffic loops
	YELLOW: Gas, oil, steam, petroleum, gaseous materials
	BLUE: Potable water
	PURPLE: Reclaimed water, irrigation, slurry lines
	GREEN: Sewers and drain lines
	WHITE: Outlining dig site
	PINK: Temporary survey marks

The marks are approximate. Dig carefully near them. 