



Underground Utilities

Call before you dig - simple and effective.

Underground utilities can include, but are not limited to, the following: communication lines, power lines, natural gas pipes, sewers, water pipes, and alarm systems. Each type of underground utility presents its own hazards and protection problems. There is a significant injury exposure to workers from explosion, fire, asphyxiation, and electrocution as well as potential large losses in the form of damaged equipment and business interruption.

🕒 Underground Utility

Damage to underground utilities from excavation and trenching activities is more common than is generally believed. Many construction projects require some degree of excavation or trenching and it is critical that all efforts are made to prevent damage to these utilities.

There should be a written procedure for conducting utility locates. The procedure should include written documentation that the utility locate has been completed. Simply receiving verbal confirmation is not sufficient. Documentation confirming all necessary precautions have been taken is very important in the event a utility is damaged.

Whenever excavation or trenching is performed, or heavy equipment is moved, the necessary precautions must be taken to identify utilities and minimize the potential for damage. An emergency plan should also be established in the event damage occurs. All excavation, trenching, or underground construction activities have the potential to damage utilities. The contractor, working with the owners of the underground installations, must identify the utilities, locate them, and determine the potential hazards a method of controlling them. A checklist identifying all of the utility services that must be contacted before any work begins is a simple and effective preventative measure.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) provides uniform colour coding for easy identification.

International Colour Code for Marking Underground Utility Lines

White:	Proposed Excavation
Pink:	Temporary Survey Markings
Red:	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
Yellow:	Gas, Oil, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
Orange:	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
Blue:	Potable Water
Purple:	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
Green:	Sewers and Drain Lines

As a tool for you and your employees, we have created a sample Underground Utilities checklist that you may copy, distribute to your employees, and incorporate into your regular work procedures.

For more information on making your business safer, contact Risk Services Department at **1.855.620.6262**.

Risk Insights

Underground Utilities Checklist



Job details

YOUR COMPANY NAME

PARTY THAT WILL BE DRILLING/EXCAVATING (IF NOT YOURSELF)

NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING THE LOCATE(S)

PARTY THAT WILL BE DRILLING/EXCAVATING (IF NOT YOURSELF)

Utility called

Communications Company 1 (Telephone, cable, ...)

PHONE:

DATE: MM/DD/YYYY

TIME:

OPERATOR/REFERENCE #:

Communications Company 2 (Telephone, cable, Internet ...)

PHONE:

DATE: MM/DD/YYYY

TIME:

OPERATOR/REFERENCE #:

Electric

PHONE:

DATE: MM/DD/YYYY

TIME:

OPERATOR/REFERENCE #:

Gas

PHONE:

DATE: MM/DD/YYYY

TIME:

OPERATOR/REFERENCE #:

Water & Sewer

PHONE:

DATE: MM/DD/YYYY

TIME:

OPERATOR/REFERENCE #:

Notes