

- ☐ **Positive Response** – “Positive response” is a term used to describe the 2 types of action taken by a facility owner/operator after it receives notification of intent to excavate. The facility owner/operator must – 1) mark its underground facilities with stakes, paint, or flags; or 2) notify the excavator that the facility owner/operator has no underground facilities in the area of excavation.



- ☐ **Facility Owner/Operator Failure to Respond** – If the facility owner/operator fails to respond to the excavator’s request for a locate or if the facility owner/operator notifies the excavator that the underground facility cannot be marked within the time specified by law and a mutually agreeable date for marking cannot be arrived at, then the excavator re-calls the one call center.

- ☐ **Locate Verification** – Upon arrival at the excavation site and prior to beginning the excavation, an excavator does the following:



- Verifies that the dig site location matches the one call request;
- Verifies that all facilities have been marked and reviews color codes if in doubt;
- Verifies all service feeds from buildings and homes;
- Checks for any visible signs of underground facilities, such as pedestals, risers, meters, and new trench lines; and
- Checks for any facilities that are not members of the one call center and contacts someone to get them located.

- ☐ **Work Site Review with Company Personnel** – Prior to starting work, the excavator reviews the location of underground facilities with the excavation crew at the job site.

- ☐ **Documentation of Marks** – An excavator uses dated photographs, videos, or sketches to document the actual placement of underground facility markings. The excavator should include the distance from the markings to fixed objects in his documentation.



- ☐ **Facility Avoidance** – The excavator uses reasonable care to avoid damaging underground facilities. The excavator plans the excavation to avoid damage and minimizes interference with underground facilities in or near the work area.

- ☐ **Marking Preservation** – The excavator protects and preserves the staking, marking, or other designation of underground facilities until no longer required for proper and safe excavation. The excavator stops excavating and notifies the one call center for re-marks if any facility mark is removed or is no longer visible.

- ☐ **Excavation Observer** – The excavator has an observer to assist the equipment operator when operating excavation equipment around known underground facilities.

- ☐ **Excavation Tolerance Zone** – The excavator observes a tolerance zone that is comprised of the width of the facility plus 18 inches on either side of the outside edge of the underground facility on a horizontal plane. The Tolerance Zone extends from ground level to the depth of the proposed excavation. Some states require a 24 inch or greater tolerance zone. Check with the one call center in your state.



- ☐ **Excavation within the Tolerance Zone** – When excavation is to take place within the specified tolerance zone, the excavator exercises reasonable care for the protection of any underground facility in or near the excavation area. Methods to consider include: hand digging, soft digging, vacuum excavation, pneumatic hand tools, or other mechanical methods with the approval of the facility owner/operator.



- ☐ **Vacuum Excavation** – Vacuum excavation is an efficient, safe and effective alternative to hand digging within the designated underground facility tolerance zone.



- ☐ **Mismarked Facilities** – The excavator notifies the facility owner/operator directly or through the one call center if an underground facility is not found where one has been marked or if an unmarked underground facility is found.

- ☐ **Exposed Facility Protection** – Excavators support or brace exposed facilities and protect them from moving or shifting, which could result in damage to the facility. If leaving the site overnight, excavators should consider securing the area with barricades or safety fencing to prevent public access.



- ☐ **Locate Request Updates** – The excavator calls the one call center to refresh or extend the ticket when excavation continues past the life of the ticket.



- ☐ **Facility Damage Notification** – An excavator discovering or causing damage to underground facilities notifies the facility owner/operator and the one call center. All breaks, leaks, nicks, dents, gouges, grooves, or other damages to facility lines, conduits, coatings, or cathodic protection should be reported. Although the facility may not immediately fail, the underground facility owner/operator should be provided the opportunity to inspect the damage and make appropriate repairs.



- ☐ **Notification of Emergency Personnel** – If damage to a facility results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid or endangers life, health, or property, the excavator responsible should immediately notify 911 and the facility owner/operator. The excavator should take reasonable measures to protect everyone in immediate danger, the general public, property, and the environment until the facility owner/operator or emergency responders arrive.



- ☐ **Emergency Coordination with Adjacent Facilities** – Planning and response to an emergency should be a coordinated effort between the excavator, local emergency responders, and facility owner/operators.