

Planning to Put up a Sign? Contact GSOC!

By: Lareina Taing

You may be considering putting up an election sign to support a candidate as the 2016 Presidential election approaches. Perhaps you are ready to sell your home and need to put up a realtor “for sale” sign. Regardless of the reasons that you are putting up a sign, remember to contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) 48 hours in advance, excluding weekends and holidays, to get underground facilities marked before digging a post hole.



Photo Credit: newswire.net/newsroom/news/00091632-the-lowdown-on-political-campaign-signage.html

Although you may only be digging a few inches into the soil with a hand tool, such as a shovel or post-hole digger, erosion, frost, flooding, and other factors can cause utilities to move closer to the surface. According to the GSOC Handbook, “Hand tools may pose a threat to you, others, and underground facilities. Damages have occurred to underground facilities when working with metal objects that are pounded or screwed into the ground, even by hand. For example, tent stakes, anchor bolts, form pins, metal probes, survey stakes, hand augers, political signs, and many other objects use sharp metal ends capable of damaging underground facilities.” Remember to also contact GSOC when using a motorized tool, such as an auger powerhead, to dig a hole. Be safe and get your lines marked before breaking ground in any way. Minnesota law requires you to white-line your digging area with white flags or paint. This will enable locators to precisely know the boundaries of your proposed excavation.

Remember too that private facilities may be on your property. GSOC facility operators do not mark these lines. Private utilities can include gas grills, pool heaters, private water systems, data communication lines, and others. You may need to hire a private locator to get your private lines marked. Click [here](#) to see more information about private utilities.

If you prefer the convenience of the internet, you can file an electronic ticket by using Homeowner Online Locate Request! This free simplified ticketing system is available 24/7 from any mobile device. Homeowner Online Locate Request provides a great alternative to calling in your ticket and no registration or training is required. Make sure you enter all information completely and accurately. Remember to add the specific type of work you are doing as you complete your ticket. You can do this in the field where you enter the type of work to be done. Specify “real estate sign” instead of just “digging”. See highlighted box on the next page.

Gopher State One Call

For assistance click the Chat Live button or call 651-454-0002, 800-252-1166, or 811

Step 1: Homeowner Locate Request Information

Enter your first and last name: JON SNOW

Enter your phone number: 952-808-6996

Enter an alternate contact phone number: 952-555-5555

Select the county where ALL the work will take place: DAKOTA

Select the city or township the site is within: MENDOTA HEIGHTS

Enter your zip code: 55120

Enter the house number where the work will take place: 1110

Enter the street name where the work will take place:
(Example: W MAIN ST not WEST MAIN STREET) CENTRE POINTE CURVE

What street intersects with the above closest to the site:
(Example: N 1ST AVE not NORTH FIRST AVENUE) LEXINGTON AVE S

Describe where on the property the work will take place AND Provide driving directions from a major intersection to the site:
IN FRONT YARD. ONCE YOU GET OFF OF 35E, GO STRAIGHT ONTO 110 AND THEN TAKE A LEFT ONTO LEXINGTON AVE AND THEN A BRIEF RIGHT.

Enter the type of work that will be done:
(Do NOT use the word "DIG" in this field.) REAL ESTATE SIGN

How long will it take you to do this work? 1 HOUR

Has the proposed area of excavation been marked in white? Y

Will any work take place within 10ft of the road? N

Work To Begin Date: 7/1/2016

At: 09 : 45 : AM

June 2016							July 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Click [here](#) to access Homeowner Online Locate Request.

Contact GSOC before any time you break the surface of the ground, no matter how small or large your project is. Getting buried lines marked is your first step to digging safely and will help to keep you and your community safe. After waiting 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, check the status of your ticket [here](#) to make sure that all utilities have responded before you dig. Once the work area has been marked, hand dig at least two feet (the tolerance zone) on both sides of the marked utility. Happy safe digging!



Customer Support
(651)681-7326

To File a Locate Request:

811 Twin Cities Metro 651-454-0002
 Greater MN Area 800-252-1166
 Emergency 866-640-3637
 Or you can go online at www.gopherstateonecall.org



www.facebook.com/gopherstateonecall



www.twitter.com/gopheronecall

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