



Spring Safe Digging Reminders

By: Lareina Taing

Spring is upon us, which marks the beginning of excavating season! Gopher State One Call (GSOC) would like to inform all excavators of important reminders prior to starting any digging projects. These reminders are as follows:

1. Chances are, you've heard the GSOC "Click or Call Before You Dig" message and already know that preventing underground utility damage is free and easy. Did you also know that it's the law? The Minnesota Excavation Law, **Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D.01** states:

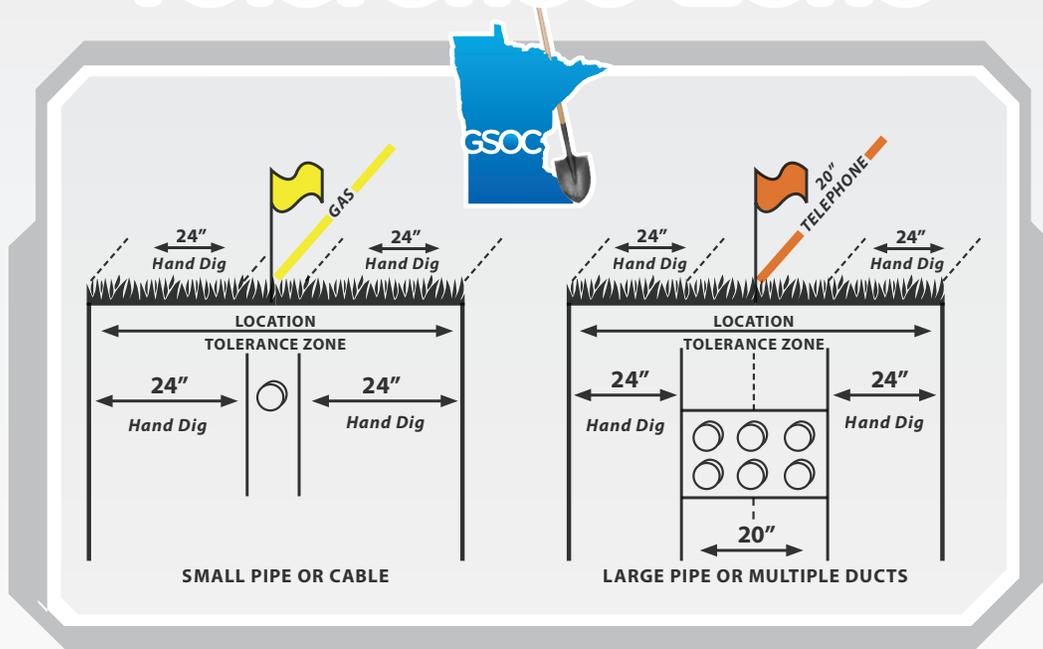
"Except in an emergency, an excavator shall and a land surveyor may contact the notification center and provide notice at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and not more than 14 calendar days before beginning any excavation or boundary survey."

For full text versions of Chapter 216D, click [here](#).

2. Before you contact GSOC, remember to **outline your proposed excavation area with white paint or flags**. By doing so, you will decrease your chances of delayed locates and potential errors. When the utility companies mark their lines, you will have the peace of mind of knowing whether or not your spring project plan conflicts with the location of buried lines.
3. You may contact GSOC **up to 14 calendar days in advance** of your project start date. Your ticket will **remain valid for 14 calendar days** after the stated start time. After that time passes, you must contact GSOC to update your ticket and get lines remarked.
4. Private facilities are **NOT** marked when you contact GSOC. While Chapter 216D requires operators of lines buried in the public right-of-way to register with GSOC, customer-owned lines (such as gas lines to a hot tub or grill) are the owner's responsibility. Protect yourself and invest some time to determine if there are private utility lines buried in the area of excavation. If so, you may have to contact a private locator to get them marked. Click [here](#) for information to help you determine if there are private utility lines on your property.
5. File a locate request online or call GSOC at **least 48 hours in advance, not including weekends or holidays**, before excavating. Always check the accuracy and completeness of your description. Make sure to include the specific type of excavating you are doing on your request.
6. Always **check the status** of the underground utility markings before beginning work. Did you know that it's easy to check the status of your ticket before you excavate? Just visit www.gsocsearch.org and look for your ticket on "Search and Status".
7. **Respect the marks**. Do your best to maintain the paint lines and flags left by locators. Stop excavating and contact GSOC if you can no longer see the marks because they are obscured or destroyed by job site traffic, weather, or other interferences.

8. Be mindful of the **tolerance zone** when beginning excavation. Hand dig two feet from both sides of the marked utility. (see graphic below)

Tolerance Zone



9. Use the proper excavating tools and techniques. This can make all the difference when completing your project. Click [here](#) to learn more.
10. Feel free to **contact us** with any questions, suggestions, or input you may have!
GSOC customer support phone number: (651) 681-7326
GSOC customer support email: customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org

With these tips in mind, you are set for a successful spring excavating season. As always, stay safe and contact GSOC before you plan to dig!



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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