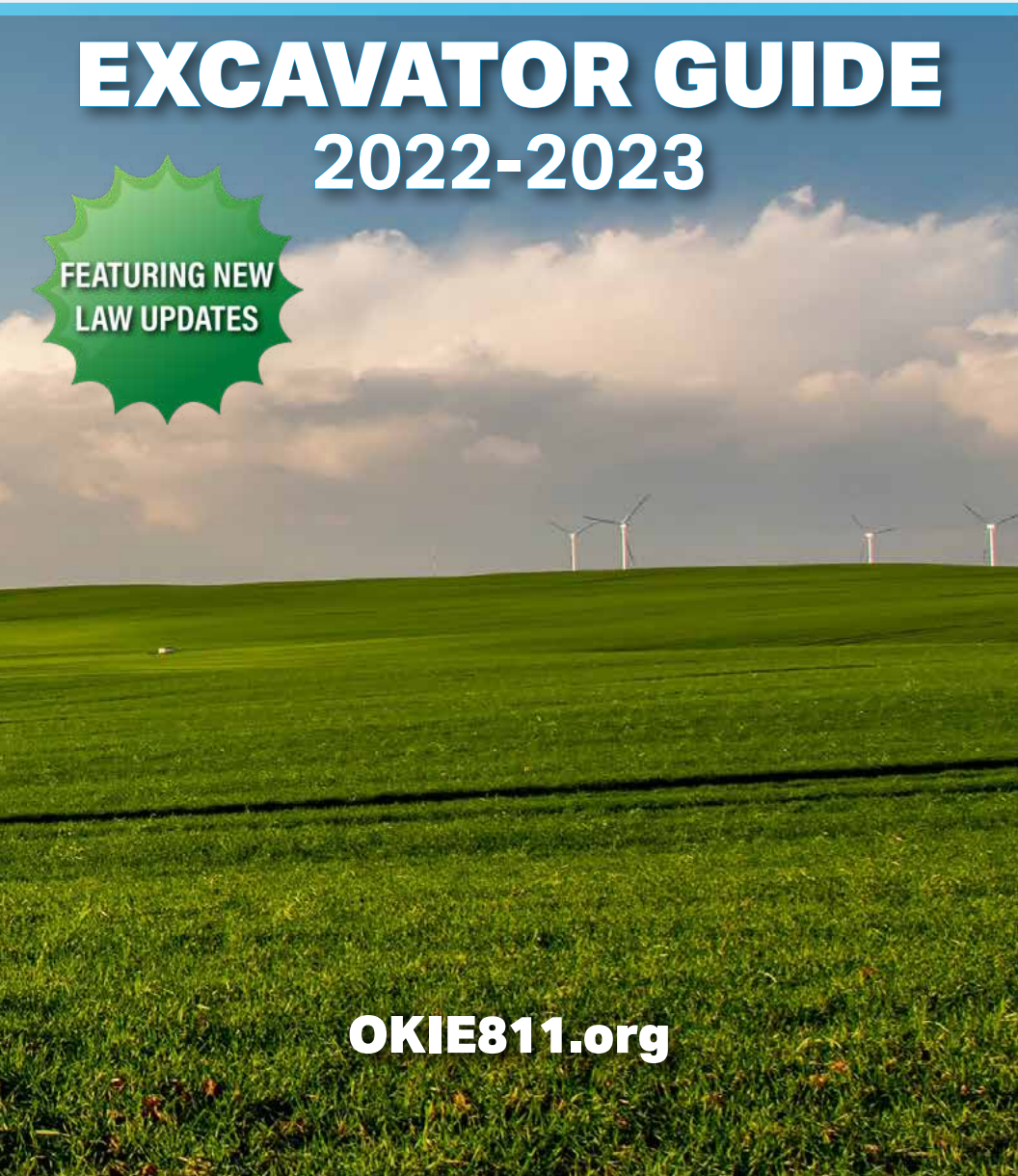
OKIE811

Know what's below 811 before you dig.

EXCAVATOR GUIDE
2022-2023

FEATURING NEW LAW UPDATES



OKIE811.org

Contacting OKIE811

Corporate Office

6908 N. Robinson Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
(405) 840-9955
(800) 522-6544
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

To Request a Locate:

OKIE811.org then select either Homeowner or Professional Excavator under I Want to Dig Locate Requests to have lines located can be submitted 24/7
Dial 811 (within Oklahoma)
(800) 522-OKIE (6543)

OKIE811 Phone List

Dial (800)522.6544 then extension:

Excavation Safety Programs	**x7127**
Assistance with Locate Requests	**Dial 811 / 800.522.6543**
Member Services / Billing / Member Portal Access	**x4003**
GIS, Dispatch Settings, Service Area Mapping, Ticket Resends	**x4008**
General Inquiries / Reception	**x7150**

Contact Center Hours

Monday - Friday

6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Online Locate Requests can be submitted 24/7

Emergency Locate Requests can be submitted 24/7

OKIE811.org **OKIE811 Social Media**

Use the QR Code above to submit locate requests at OKIE811.org. You can also stay informed about the 811 Message by following OKIE811 on all of our social media platforms.

Official State Holidays

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day **
Presidents Day **
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day**
Thanksgiving Day
Day After Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Specific dates are given for each year on our website, OKIE811.org. During these holidays, we only accept emergency, repeat notice locate requests, and damage reports via phone and normal locate requests online at OKIE811.org.

** OKIE811's offices will be open on these days and we will process all locate request types. However, this is an official state holiday and does not count towards the required waiting period. The 48 hours' notice starts the next business day after the holiday.

Preface

This guide has been prepared for professional excavators and contractors that perform underground utility services in Oklahoma. It is intended to be a reference tool to help those get the most from Oklahoma's 811 System (OKIE811) and the variety of services we offer. This guide is provided by the members of OKIE811 as a free tool for those excavating in Oklahoma. Safety and protection are priorities for those digging around vital underground facilities. Publishing this guide is a service of OKIE811 and reflects the policies, laws put in place by our Board of Directors and Oklahoma Legislature, as well as industry best practices.

This guide is based upon the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act. We have highlighted key points and simplified them, so this guide can be utilized as a convenient resource for excavators and facility operators. OKIE811, its officers, employees and agents make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy of this reproduction. Our guide should not be used as a legal reference document. Persons seeking interpretations of the law should contact their own attorney(s). We recommend you, as an excavator or facility operator, become familiar with this guide to ensure your safety while excavating.

A copy of the Oklahoma law can be found in the back of this guide or online at OKIE811.org. This guide is the property of Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc., but we authorize the right to make copies and scans of this booklet. You may request hard copies of this publication by emailing education@OKIE811.org, dialing 811 within Oklahoma, or dialing 800-522-6544 outside of Oklahoma.

For an up-to-date copy of this publication go to OKIE811.org.

OKIE 811

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

THANK YOU *for* Partnering With Us

At Oklahoma Natural Gas, safety is our top priority.

We value our partnership with excavators who provide important services to our customers across the state. We encourage everyone to use the Oklahoma One-Call system to help keep our customers and our communities safe. For all excavation and digging projects, be safe and call 811 at least 48 hours excluding the date of notification, weekends and holidays before starting.

Emergency Contact Number: 800-458-4251

SCAN HERE
to learn more about our safety metrics from our latest ESG report.

Oklahoma Natural Gas.
A Division of ONE Gas

OklahomaNaturalGas.com

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Glossary

OKIE811
Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc.

811 Before You Dig
Contacting OKIE811 before digging is the law. You may submit a locate request through our website or by dialing 811. The 811 number is a national One-Call number that was created to make calling before you dig as simple as possible. Excavators doing work in Oklahoma will be connected to OKIE811 when dialing 811. If calling from outside of Oklahoma, dial 800-522-6543.

Contact Center Agent
Our contact center team members that process submitted locate requests. They may have the title of Damage Prevention Representative, Damage Prevention Agent, or Damage Prevention Specialist.

Cross-bore
The intersection of an existing underground utility or underground structure by a second utility installed using trenchless technology. This results in an intersection of the utilities, compromising the integrity of underground infrastructure.

Damage Prevention
Everyone working together to protect excavators and underground facilities. The effort begins with awareness and ends with adherence to the requirements of our Oklahoma law. It is about communication and respecting the safety process.

Damage Prevention Act
Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act that was put in place in 1982. This act contains definitions and the process for excavation safety for both the excavator and facility operator. Refer to pages 33-40.

Emergency Locate Request
A situation that endangers life, health, or property and requires locate services. An OKIE811 Contact Center Agent will ensure immediate notification is made to Members with underground utility lines in the area of excavation.

Excavation
To dig, compress or remove earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground by use of mechanized equipment, blasting, or human or animal power, but not necessarily limited to, auguring, boring, backfilling, drilling, grading, pile driving, plowing in, pulling in, trenching, tunneling, and plowing.

Excavator
Person, business, or public agency that intends to excavate or demolish within the State of Oklahoma.

Excess Flow Valve
A device that automatically restricts the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is broken.

Flags and/or Paint
A method of marking that indicates the approximate location of the underground facilities. The facility should be found as you hand dig within 2 feet either side of the marks.

Locate Request
A locate request is submitted by the excavator stating when and where excavation will be taking place. This locate request is processed and turned into a ticket. Notification is then sent to members with underground facilities in the area of excavation.

Member
Underground Facility owners/operators that have joined OKIE811 to protect their facilities, promote safety and participate in providing a service that is free to all excavators.

Positive Response

Response indicating the status of the required activities of the operator or locator regarding the locate request. Each operator shall provide a positive response to the 811 center prior to the expiration of the required notice period.

Soft Digging

The method of removing terrain (sand, mud, dirt, clay, rocks, roadbed, etc.) from around a buried utility using vacuum excavation and exposing the sub-terrain infrastructure without causing any damage to the utility lines and having minimal environmental impact.

State of Emergency Declaration

The Governor declares a State of Emergency when he/she believes a disaster has occurred or may be imminent that is severe enough to require State aid to supplement local resources in preventing or alleviating damages, loss, hardship, or suffering.

Date of Excavation on tickets processed during the State of Emergency are not effective during the period of the State of Emergency. Excavators must check positive response and ensure lines have been located and marked prior to excavating.

Ticket / Ticket Number

Once a locate request has been processed, a ticket number is generated. The Contact Center Agent will provide you with the ticket number. Keep that number on hand in the event you need it for future reference.

Life of a Ticket

A ticket expires 14 calendar days after the excavation start date. No excavation should take place after the 14th day unless an update has been made with sufficient notice.

Tolerance Zone

Areas around underground utilities and pipelines where excavation with mechanized equipment is prohibited by state law. Pipeline companies sometimes require their presence in the event an excavator will be digging within the tolerance zone, or even within the right-of-way.

Underground facility

Any underground line, cable, facility, system, pipe, or any device used to move product, water, electricity, communication, and other products underground.

Underground Facility Owner/Operator

Facility Operator is defined by Oklahoma law as "... any person or public agency owning or operating underground facilities." Refer to the law for more information. {142.2 (9)}

White Lining / White Paint

A best practice for excavators to employ to help communicate the intended excavation site to the facility owner. The excavator marks the proposed excavation area with white paint prior to the locate request. Please remember to include in your locate request that the area has been white lined.

For more information on how OPAL supports safe excavation, visit

Proud partner with OKIE811

Your safety is our priority.

OKpipelineawareness.com

OPAL
OKLAHOMA PIPELINE AWARENESS LIAISON

OKIE811 Education & Outreach

Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO

From Guymon to Idabel, from Miami to Altus, and everywhere in between, underground utility lines are the lifeblood for nearly 4 million Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO brings together professional contractors and excavators, underground facility operators, the state's 811 Center, and those in the safety industry to educate, train and share ideas about how to make Oklahoma a safer place to dig. The EXPO features networking with industry professionals, breakout sessions lead by experts, safety certifications, and much more. For more information go to okexcavationsafety.com

OKLAHOMA EXCAVATION SAFETY EXPO

OKIE811 Regional Safety Days

To make our Oklahoma Underground Safety Education programs more relevant and beneficial to those attending, OKIE811 is offering Safety Days across Oklahoma. Our goal is to reach excavators, contractors and county/municipal personnel in these areas and provide underground facility safety education, best practices, and facilitate outdoor safety demonstrations.

OKIE811 Excavator Certification Program

Provided in partnership with Damage Prevention Academy, OKIE811's Online Excavator Certification Program is certified by the Gold Shovel Standard. Upon completion of this training, you will be educated in the regulations surrounding excavation in Oklahoma and the Best Practices for Safe Digging and Damage Prevention. Start online training today go to OKIE811.org/excavationcertification.

OKIE811's Educational Webinars

OKIE811 produces a series of online educational webinars. This series is led by a group of industry and subject matter experts and cover a variety of topics ranging from safe excavation practices, OKIE811 membership, and more. This is an excellent opportunity to get a deep dive into several topics and to have your questions answered in real time. Attendees of our webinars will receive a Certificate of Attendance for your records. If you are unable to attend the webinar, register anyhow to receive the recorded webinar to watch on your own time. Be sure to check out our schedule of free webinars and register on our website at OKIE811.org/educationevents.

OKIE811 Podcast

Learn more about safe excavation and damage prevention on the go. Check out Digging Deep where we cover a wide range of topics led by industry professionals. Available on all your favorite podcast platforms.

OKIE811 YouTube Channel

Were you not able to make it to one of our informative webinars? Want to watch the podcast videos? Check out our YouTube channel for these videos and others. Search "OKIE811" in YouTube.

For the latest information and updates to all these programs and more please visit OKIE811.org/education

Getting to Know 811

Who We Are

OKIE811 is a non-profit corporation, incorporated in the State of Oklahoma in 1979. We are funded by our member companies consisting of underground facility owners and operators in Oklahoma. In 1982, the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act was created to support the 811 Center Operations in Oklahoma.

What We Do

OKIE811 provides one-stop communications between excavators and underground facility owners and operators. In 2021 OKIE811 processed over 1.1 million inbound locates requests which resulted in over 7.2 million outbound notifications to our member companies who own and operate the underground facilities. These locate requests notify the member companies of where excavation is to take place so they can mark the location of nearby underground facilities.

How It Works

Submit your locate request by going online to our website or by calling our contact center. No matter how you submit your locate request, the service is FREE to those submitting the request. Once the locate request has been processed, notices go to each facility operator with underground lines in the dig area. Each facility operator will then deploy their locator to the site so lines can be located and marked. Notice shall be given no less than 48 hours not including date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays prior to the commencement of the excavation or demolition.

Underground facility operators are dedicated to keeping you safe and ensuring their underground lines remain intact. Following these steps will ensure the safety of both you and your crew.

Excavator / Contractor's Role

Anyone planning to excavate is required to:

- Prior to excavation, notice shall be given no less than 48 hours not including date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.
- Provide accurate and specific information concerning the site and the extent or scope of the work. Outlining the dig site with white paint to provide locators the precise location of your job is highly recommended.
- After confirming positive response and identifying locate marks on the ground, you must determine the precise location of the underground facility. This is done by digging test holes by hand.
- Once the underground facility is exposed, it is your responsibility to protect it.
- Notify operators of underground facilities if precise location cannot be found.
- Notify operators of underground facilities immediately when any damage occurs to facilities. Also Dial 811 to report the damage.
- Excavators must delay backfilling in the damaged area until repairs are made.

Role Of The Underground Facility Owner/Operator

It's the law.

The Oklahoma Underground Damage Prevention Act requires registration of underground facilities and notification prior to excavation.

Specifically, the act provides that facility owners/municipalities:

- Must register the location of all underground facilities with OKIE811.
- Must maintain all data with OKIE811 to reflect changes in company contacts, e-mail addresses, as well as locations, additions, or deletions of facilities.
- Must mark the approximate location of their underground facilities prior to the date of excavation or notify excavator they have no facilities in the proposed excavation area.
- Must locate facilities with paint, flags and/or stakes according to APWA color codes.
- Must provide mandatory positive response using the OKIE811 system.
- Must pay members fees and dues to remain a member in good standing.

Risks Of Not Using OKIE811

Using OKIE811's services to have underground lines located before digging is the first step in damage prevention. Excavation safety is a complex process. It requires communication and cooperation between everyone involved from the excavator to the underground facility owner. It is important to be committed to safety and to the prevention and elimination of damages.

Contacting OKIE811 is a free service so excavators can help prevent damages to underground lines. Failure to have underground lines located prior to excavation could result in:

- **Death or injuries**
- **Medical treatments**
- **Loss of wages**
- **Interrupted services of vital utilities such as heat and water**
- **Emergency calls to 911 centers blocked**
- **In-home medical equipment outages**
- **Interruption to telecommunications**
- **Environmental impact**
- **Property damage**
- **Project delays and downtime with idle crews**
- **"Loss of Use" damages, punitive damages, and court fees (Refer to the Law for more information 142.9a.c)**
- **Legal and liability issues**
- **Economic impact on surrounding businesses**

OKLAHOMA EXCAVATION SAFETY EXPO

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

Breakout Sessions, Industry Professionals, Certification Classes

The Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo brings together professional contractors/excavators, underground facility operators, the state's 811 Center and those in the safety industry to educate, train and share ideas about how to make Oklahoma a safer place to dig.

For dates, information, and registration, scan the code below

Before Contacting OKIE811

Plan Your Work

Safe excavation begins with proper planning. Before contacting OKIE811, do you know what all waits for you at the worksite? By taking the time to research the worksite, you can save time, energy, and money while keeping your crew safe and protecting underground facilities from damage.

Site Research

When at the worksite, research the area for safety hazards and private lines. The worksite can be defined as the proposed excavation area plus the area surrounding the proposed excavation that is required to be searched for underground facilities. An excavator can search the worksite for underground facilities prior to beginning excavation such as land records, pipeline surveys, as-builts, individuals working in the vicinity, and a visual inspection looking for visible indicators, or signs of, underground facilities. You will want to ensure that your crew will be able to excavate and trench safely.

Private lines or customer-owned lines are lines installed after the operator or their contractor have installed basic service.

Examples of private lines may include:

- Natural gas or underground piping to a garage or an outbuilding
- Propane lines
- Lines to gas grills and pool heaters
- Private water systems
- Septic systems
- Drain lines from downspouts
- Underground sprinkler systems
- Electric lines installed after the meter
- Invisible pet fences
- Data communications lines

Private lines will be part of almost every job. Take time to survey the work site for signs of private lines:

- Is there a propane storage tank on the property?
- Is there a detached garage or outbuilding with lighting?
- Is there a pool heater or gas grill? or
- Did you notice an underground sprinkler system?

Do not dig until buried lines are identified and marked. OKIE811 member companies DO NOT LOCATE private lines. These lines can be located by hiring a private locator. There may be costs associated with private line locating.

White Lining

White lining is the process of marking the dig area with white paint and/or white flags prior to contacting OKIE811. White lining allows utility locators to complete their work more quickly and makes it easier for excavation crews to identify the dig site.

White lining tips:

- Use only white paint and/or flags
- Pre-mark your project prior to contacting OKIE811
- Paint with dashes, lines, or arrows
- The width of each mark should be approximately 2″
- The length of each mark should be 6″ to 12″
- The distance between marks depends on site conditions, but should be no greater than 20′
- Mark the center line if doing linear work
- Indicate on your locate request that you want locators to mark at least 10 feet past your pre-marked area

The Life of a Ticket

A ticket expires 14 calendar days after the excavation start date. No excavation should take place after the 14th day unless an update has been made with sufficient notice.

What to Expect When Contacting OKIE811

Required Time for Notification

When submitting a locate request, notice should be given no less than 48 hours not including date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the commencement of the excavation or demolition.

Locate Request Submission

You can submit a locate request by:

- Our website: OKIE811.org
- Dialing 811
- Dialing 800-522-6543 outside of Oklahoma

Website

Over 75% of our locate requests are submitted through our website. Submitting through the website is available 24/7 and is the fastest submission method with no time spent waiting on hold.

To submit a locate request, click "I WANT TO DIG" on the top right corner of our website: OKIE811.org.

There are a few options when submitting a locate requestion online:

- Homeowners doing work for themselves on their own property will select "I am a Homeowner".
- Professional excavators and contractors doing work for others will select "I am a Professional Excavator".
- Surveyors and Designers who are not digging within the next 14 calendar days will select "Design-Survey Request".
- For anyone who has submitted a locate request, you can look up positive response as well as other ticket information by selecting "Ticket Lookup".

Phone Call

In Oklahoma, simply dial 811. If you're needing to reach us from outside of Oklahoma, dial 800-522-OKIE (6543). The process is simple and should not take long if the caller is prepared and has the proper information ready. After an initial automated menu, an agent will ask for the location where the excavation will be taking place. To avoid possible hold time, submit online at OKIE811.org.

What is Required for a Locate Request?

When submitting a locate request, please have the following information ready:

- ❑ Homeowner/Excavator name and Excavator company
- ❑ Mailing Address
- ❑ Contact name, telephone, email address and cell phone number
- ❑ Start date and time of excavation
- ❑ Work site street and number (include north, south, east, west)
- ❑ County and town/city
- ❑ Nearest Cross Street
- ❑ Driving Directions to the worksite
- ❑ Type and extent of the proposed work
- ❑ Type of excavation, explosives or directional boring.
- ❑ Work location (street, sidewalk, private property front, rear, side, etc.)
- ❑ Who the work is being done for
- ❑ Information regarding any access issues such as locked gates, dogs, etc.

Helpful, but not required information:

- ❑ White line area of excavation
- ❑ GPS-Latitude/Longitude
- ❑ Township, range, section, and quarter section

Compliant Ticket Types

Normal Locate Request

A normal locate request is a non-emergency request where the excavator contacts OKIE811 at least 48 hours prior to the excavation excluding date of notification, weekends, and holidays.

Emergency Locate Request

The law provides an exception to the three business days' notice in emergency cases only. An emergency is an unavoidable situation that endangers life, health, or property, prior to excavation. In an emergency, excavation may begin immediately. Excavators must use extra care and precaution to protect underground facilities. Excavators should try to call before digging, but if they are unable, they should call as soon as possible. All operators of underground facilities within the area of the emergency must be notified promptly.

If requests for emergency locates are made by an excavator when there is no emergency, the excavator may then be liable to the owner or operator for the responsible cost of emergency response.

Demolition Request

By Oklahoma law, before demolition of a structure begins, operators of the underground facilities in the geographic area shall be given at least 7 business days' notice, this excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. This notice shall be given to the notification (one-call) center after the excavator has met local code requirements for a demolition permit. Important: This notice does not replace the excavator's responsibility to notify the operators of the underground facilities directly to have the lines disconnected. These 7 business days' notices are only for the intent of demolition and the excavator shall notify the 811 center once again no less than 3 business days before the demolition work begins.

Ticket Number

When your submission is complete and all information validated, the OKIE811's system will assign a 14-digit confirmation number.

Keep your locate request ticket number on file and easily accessible on the job site for 14 calendar days. Be sure to listen carefully to the list of Member companies being notified or refer to the locate ticket for this list. Remember, private lines are the responsibility of the landowner and most likely will not be located and marked by a member company. Also, be sure to update your ticket if work will continue beyond 14 calendar days, or if marks are destroyed.

As a reminder, all messages to and from OKIE811 are recorded and maintained for a minimum of 36 months. This is to protect both excavators and facility owners/operators and for OKIE811 quality assurance.

After You've Contacted OKIE811

After OKIE811 has been notified and a ticket has been created, a notification is transmitted to each of the members with assets in the excavation area. There is an average of 6 member companies notified for each locate request processed. Once you have your ticket number, you can go online to OKIE811.org to view, print or email the details of the ticket. Members will have a trained technician to either mark their facilities or inform the excavator that facilities are not in the proposed area of excavation through positive response. It is important to have accurate contact information as part of the locate request. If you notice any errors in the locate request, please contact OKIE811 to correct the information.

Wait the Required Time

The work date and time will be on the locate request ticket. The ticket is not valid until the work date and time.

Positive Response

Responding to the excavator is mandatory in the State of Oklahoma, in accordance with the amended section 142.6.B of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, each operator of underground facilities shall provide a Positive Response to the 811 center (i.e. OKIE811 via our Portal) prior to the expiration of the required notice period.

Excavators must check for positive response at the 811 center prior to excavating or demolishing to ensure that all operators have responded and that all facilities that may be affected by the proposed excavation or demolition have been marked.

Positive response does not relieve the excavator of their responsibility to use care when digging around underground facilities. Excavators should continue to check the excavation site, emails, voicemails, text, etc. prior to calling OKIE811 to request an additional notice. OKIE811 is not responsible for any damage loss or liability that may arise due to the use or misuse of ticket response status information.

Subsequent Notice

If a member company fails to provide Positive Response or the excavator is not able to confirm the locate is completed by the work to begin date and time, the excavator should request a 2nd Notice. This does not reset the notification time requirements and will be treated as a short notice request by the member company.

Updates

Your ticket is valid for 14 calendar days from the work to begin date. An Update Ticket will be required if work is going to extend beyond 14 calendar days, or if underground facilities need to be remarked because of work activity or weather has destroyed the original marks. This update should be made approximately 3 business days prior to the expiration of the ticket, so that there is not a lapse in the ticket validation time. This can be done online through our website or by calling us and talking to an OKIE811 Contact Center Agent. You will need to have your ticket number on hand when submitting an update locate request.

If excessive and unreasonable update requests for marking are made by an excavator when no excavation is taking place within fourteen (14) calendar days, the excavator may be liable to the owner or operator for the reasonable cost of such marking.

Approximate Location

Location of a member's underground facilities will be marked with paint, flags and/or stakes, according to American Public Works Association color codes. Although technology is continuously improving, locating is not an exact science. The locate marks only provide the "Approximate Horizontal Location" and should not be taken as the exact location. The approximate location of underground facilities is defined as a strip of land two (2) feet on either side of the underground facility size, taking into consideration the width of the facility.

A competent excavator would employ hand dug test holes to determine the exact location of the underground facility, respect the marks and dig with caution in proximity to the locate marks and take all reasonable precautions to ensure that no damage occurs. The depth of the underground facility is not provided, and an excavator must not assume that a depth reading is accurate.

State of Emergency Declaration

During any state of emergency declared by the Governor or Legislature that impacts the area of excavation or demolition, the time limitations shall be inapplicable.

Even though date/time on the locate request are not effective during the state of emergency, locators may still respond to locate requests as resources are available. Please ensure lines are marked and positive response has been received prior to digging. Excavation should only begin

after positive response has been received by all companies. If the state of emergency declaration has expired, the work to begin date has passed and the excavator still does not have lines located or Positive Response from members listed, please submit a 2nd Notice ticket to OKIE811.

The life of a ticket is still 14 calendar days from the original Excavation Date. Excavators will still need to update their ticket(s) with sufficient notice before 14 calendar days from the original Excavation Date.

For more information go to: soe.okie811.org

ClickBeforeYouDig.com and 811 is a free service designed to keep you safe when digging. Click or Call at least two to three business days before your project anytime you are disturbing the soil-(depending on state law)

Call 811 or visit ClickBeforeYouDig.com

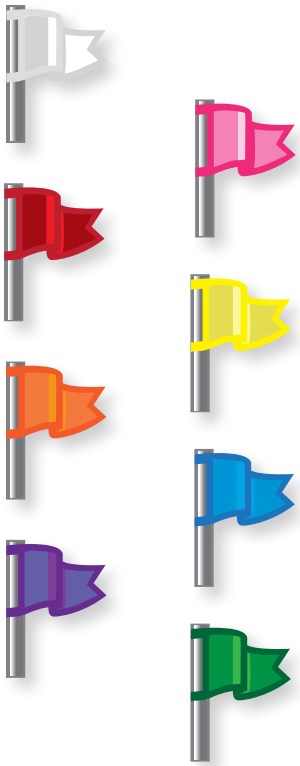
Visit enbridge.com/call811 for more information.

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

UNIFORM COLOR CODE
FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

PROPOSED EXCAVATION	
TEMPORARY SURVEY	
ELECTRIC POWER LINES	
GAS / OIL / STEAM / PETROLEUM	
TELEPHONE / TV / CABLE	
DRINKABLE WATER	
RECLAIMED WATER / IRRIGATION	
SEWER AND DRAIN LINES	



Digging Deep

Learn more about safe excavation and damage prevention on the go. Check out Digging Deep where we cover a wide range of topics led by industry professionals. Available on all your favorite podcast platforms.

Scan to go to
Digging Deep on Podbean

GridHawk

GridHawk.com | 219-500-2070

GridHawk

GridHawk.com | 219-500-2070

"At GridHawk LLC it is our mission to provide the highest quality service, while developing meaningful relationships with our clients to ensure the safety of the surroundings communities we serve to protect. Our technicians go above and beyond to protect our client's underground facilities. We strive to continuously build our industry knowledge and skill sets to remain dedicated to safety and quality assurance, all while continuing to impact communities across the nation."

Our Services

The Premier Provider of Utility Locating and Damage Prevention Services

- ✓ *Utility Locating*
- ✓ *Advanced Locating: Maintenance & Repair*
- ✓ *Standby Watch & Protect*
- ✓ *Private Locating*
- ✓ *Leak Detection & Survey Services*
- ✓ *Survey-Grade Mapping Services*

NATURAL GAS | ELECTRIC | TELECOM | WATER & SEWER

ESTABLISHED 1937

OEC | OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ESTABLISHED 2018

OEC Fiber

IMPROVING OKLAHOMANS' QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS

To learn more, visit www.okcoop.org or www.OECFiber.com

What Do The Marks Mean?

The following are examples of some of the painted marks you may see after an operator marks their underground assets. Please note that these marks are suggestions and vary from organization to organization. If you have further questions about the marks, please contact the facility owner/operator.

Electric Power Lines

Streetlight / Secondary & Single Phase Primary Marking

Two Phase Primary

Three Phase Primary

Conduit Run Markings

No Conflict / Clear Marking

CLR

Telephone / TV / Cable

Cable or Drop

Fiber

Conduit Run Markings

No Conflict / Clear Marking

CLR

Gas / Oil / Steam / Petro

Gas Main	Company	Size of Pipe 4″
Gas Main w/ Service T	Company	6″
High Pressure Main	Company	10″ HP
No Conflict / Clear Marking	CLR	

REMEMBER

OKIE811 does not actually mark the underground utility lines. OKIE811 serves as the communication link between excavators and underground facility owner/operators.

Each owner/operator is responsible for marking and protecting their own underground facilities.

Verizon keeps business ready✓

verizon✓ business ready

5 Steps to Safe Excavation

1. Contact OKIE811 by Going to OKIE811.org or Dialing 811

The key to successful and safe excavation is planning. The Damage Prevention Act requires excavators to give at least 3 business days' notice of planned excavation. OKIE811 was established to provide a central point of contact to help you notify facility owners and operators of planned excavation.

OKIE811 assists both excavators and facility owners in communicating with each other; however, private lines are the responsibility of the landowner and most likely will not be located and marked by a member company. OKIE811 will provide the excavator a list of known facility operators in the area. The excavator must review and determine if any additional facilities are in the area. This can be done with observation of signage, equipment, and knowledge of the area. If the excavator has knowledge of a facility not listed, the excavator must inform the owner of that facility of pending excavation.

2. Wait the Required Time

OKIE811 will produce a locate request that is sent to the facility owner/operators. The facility operators with underground facilities in the area will then locate and mark their facilities. The facility operators are required by law to provide positive response that will be viewable on the ticket. They will mark the underground facilities or communicate with the excavator that they have no facilities within the proposed excavation site. It is important that all contact information given by the excavator during the call is accurate to ensure the facility operators can contact the excavator.

3. Confirm Response from all Utility Operators

Excavators should always wait the required time before doing any type of excavation. Excavation should only begin after positive response has been received by all companies. You should always inspect the marks and compare the ticket from OKIE811 to determine if all facility operators marked their underground facilities. If there is any doubt after the required time as to whether an underground facility was marked, contact OKIE811 and a second request can be processed.

4. Respect the Marks

The underground facility should be marked with permanent signage and/or temporary flags and paint. The markings represent the approximate location of the facility, however a tolerance zone of two (2) feet should be added to both sides of the facility. No automated or mechanical equipment should be used inside the tolerance zone. Within this zone, you must expose facilities by hand. Support and protect the underground facility after it have been exposed to prevent damage.

The excavator should monitor the condition of the markings. Contact OKIE811 if the markings become unreadable due to excavation activity, weather, or vandalism, so the facility owners can be notified to re-mark the facilities.

Excavators are required to submit an update request to the 811 center if the excavation will exceed the 14 calendar day window.

5. Dig with Care

Your safety is important. In any excavation activity, be aware of the job site and all other activities that may be ongoing. Remember that within the tolerance zone, only hand excavation is allowed. If a facility is exposed, the excavator must support and protect it. If a damage occurs to a facility, contact the operator immediately for repair, then report the damage to OKIE811. If the facility damage results in the escape of hazardous gas or liquid, leave the area immediately and contact local emergency response agencies by calling 911. Do not backfill until it is repaired and remember DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY. The protective layer or coating on a facility must not be damaged. "Near misses" or damage to just the protective coating must also be reported.

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Tolerance Zone

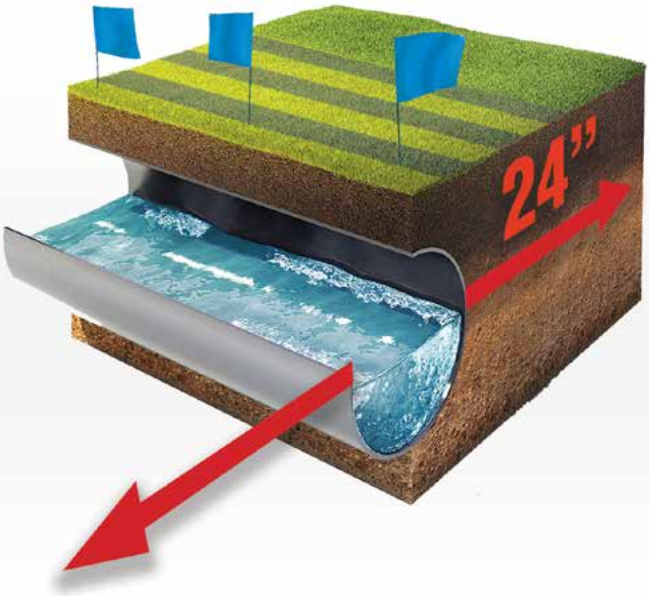
The Damage Prevention Act includes a tolerance zone for excavation that says, "... the approximate location of the underground facilities shall be defined as a strip of land two (2) feet on either side of such underground facility." This means that since the markings on the ground show the approximate location of the underground facilities you should use extra caution when you are within 24" of the facility.

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) has published Best Practices which includes a statement about excavating within the tolerance zone. It says:

When excavation is to take place within the specified tolerance zone, the excavator exercises such reasonable care as may be necessary for the protection of any underground facility in or near the excavation area. Methods to consider, based on certain climate or geographical conditions, include hand digging when practical (pot holing), soft digging, vacuum excavation methods, pneumatic hand tools, other mechanical methods with the approval of the facility owner/operator, or other technical methods that may be developed.

For example, if you have determined that a gas line is near your dig site, you should hand dig near the marks so that you can determine the exact location of that gas line.

But how do you know where to stop hand digging? First, determine what size line is under those flags and paint. If you have a 24" gas line, you will need to add the 24" to either side of that line to find your tolerance zone. In this case your tolerance zone would be a total of 72 inches. Keep in mind that the markings are not always directly centered on the facility below. You should always dig with caution when you are within the tolerance zone.



Signs of Damage

Look For

Dirt blowing in the air
Water bubbling or standing in unusual areas
Areas of dead vegetation
Clouds of vapor or mist
Pools of liquid
Sheen or film on water
Fire or explosion

Listen For

Hissing
Whistling
Roaring sounds
Debris blowing

If You Smell

Strange and unusual gaseous
or chemical odors that resemble:
Skunk - Odorized Natural Gas
Rotten Eggs - Hydrogen Sulfide By-Product
Petroleum - Refined Petroleum Products

IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK:

1. Turn off engines and eliminate ignition sources.
2. Leave the area immediately.
3. Call 911.
4. Notify the Underground Facility Owner of the damage.

NEVER ATTEMPT TO COVER UP OR REPAIR A DAMAGED LINE

Remember for gas service lines:
Customers may have excess flow valves (EFV) on their service lines. The EFV (excess flow valves) will restrict the amount of gas to the meter, and the mercaptan smell may not always be evident. Even the slightest damage to a line should be reported.

How to Report a Damage

When a known damage has occurred, the excavator or person on scene is required by law to call the operator of the damaged line. For information on Helpful Numbers to call, go to OKIE811.org/excavators.

The person is also to Call 811 or 800-522-6543 to report the damage. Reporting the damage does not imply liability or guilt for the damage but does enable the facility operator to make necessary repairs and ensure service interruptions are restored.

If an excavator fails to contact 811 and fails to comply with the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act and they damage an underground facility, they will be liable for the underground damage and may be responsible for the repair of such facilities.

So remember, always contact 811 before you dig and have underground utility lines located and marked.

Frequently Asked Questions About OKIE811

Does OKIE811 locate underground facilities?

No. OKIE811 is a notification center. Owner/operators that own or maintain underground facilities are responsible for ensuring their lines are marked. They may handle this in-house or utilize a third-party locating company.

I called in a request to locate lines from my meter to my house, and the facilities were not located. Why?

It is the responsibility of the underground facility owners to mark the facilities they own and operate. Each facility owner has different rules and requirements for locating their facilities.

For example, private and service lines are not located by facility owners because ownership transitions at the meter from the facility owner to the property owner. Since these lines may be private, it is not the responsibility of the facility owner to locate. With this example, the owner of these underground lines is now the property owner, and it is the property owner's responsibility to locate these facilities. As stated earlier, the conditions and requirements may change, and the best course of action is to contact the individual facility owner or operator for more detailed information.

To have private locate lines located, please contact a private line locating company.

Will OKIE811 tell me the depth of my utilities?

No. OKIE811 does not obtain or have information on the depth of underground facilities. Please contact the utility companies for that information.

How much does it cost to use the OKIE811 service?

The service is FREE to anyone who digs: excavators, contractors, renters, residents, homeowners, business owners/operators, farmers, and ranchers, etc.

Are the locate marks exact?

The approximate location of the underground facility is defined by law as "a strip of land two (2) feet on either side of the underground facility." Remember to include the width of the facility. For more information about the marks, please see the section on pages 20-21.

I called in a locate request for my back yard. The gate was locked. Locators did not locate. Will locators call me to plan to come back?

Since time is crucial for the contact center agent, locator, and excavator, be sure to inform the agent of any special instructions or needs you may have during the call. Plan to secure pets and unlock gates to eliminate unnecessary travel time for the line locators. The locator may or may not return. Please contact OKIE811 to add the special access instructions to your locate request.

If you are unable to keep gates unlocked or secure pets, contact OKIE811 to add the access instructions to your request. Locators may have an additional 48 hours to respond.

What is an Emergency Ticket Type?

The law provides an exception to the three business days' notice in emergency cases only. An emergency is an unavoidable

situation that endangers life, health, or property and requires immediate excavation. In an emergency, excavation may begin immediately. Excavators must use extra care and precaution to protect underground facilities. Excavators should try to call before digging, but if they are unable, they should call as soon as possible. All operators of underground facilities within the area of the emergency must be notified promptly.

If a State of Emergency is declared, when can I dig?

Even though date/time on the locate request are not effective during the state of emergency, locators may still respond to locate requests as resources are available. Please ensure lines are marked and positive response has been received prior to digging. Excavation should only begin after positive response has been received by all companies. If the state of emergency declaration has expired, the work to begin date has passed and the excavator still does not have lines located or Positive Response from members listed, please submit a 2nd Notice ticket to OKIE811.

The life of a ticket is still 14 calendar days from the original Excavation Date. Excavators will still need to update their ticket(s) with sufficient notice before 14 calendar days from the original Excavation Date. For more information go to: soe.okie811.org

Common Ground Alliance's Best Practice

The CGA's Best Practices Committee developed a Best Practices Guide based on the work of the "Common Ground Task Force." The current version is available for free download at www.commongroundalliance.com under the Best Practices link.

The CGA Best Practices are agreed on by consensus of all 16 CGA stakeholder groups and designed to improve worker safety, protect vital underground infrastructure, and ensure public safety during excavation activities conducted in the vicinity of existing underground facilities.

The CGA releases a new edition of Best Practices every spring with updates that reflect changes in damage prevention, especially those caused by the always-evolving technologies that are at the core of progress in the industry.

CGA Common Ground Alliance

We are big fans of you and the communities we serve.

We are honored to serve all of our local communities and are excited to welcome our new communities in Arkansas, Oklahoma and the Texarkana area.

summit UTILITIES

Safe digging is no accident. Know what's below. Always call before you dig.
Visit www.call811.com for more information.

Emergency Contact Number 888-876-5786

www.summitutilities.com

811 Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.

We're Committed

to pursuing a zero-incident culture by continuously working toward mitigating risks and eliminating incidents that may bring harm to our employees, contractors, the public or the environment.

Unsafe digging, farming and excavating around pipelines is the leading cause of pipeline damage. The best way for the public to help promote safe operations and prevent accidents is by using the local "Call Before You Dig" program in advance of any fencing, landscaping or major construction project.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

www.oneok.com
www.oneok.com/careers

ONEOK

SOUTHERN STAR®
CENTRAL GAS PIPELINE

811 Know what's **below.** **Call** before you dig.

For pipeline emergencies, call 1-800-324-9696.

Law Updates

There have been a few changes made to the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act that went into effect November 1, 2021.

Life of the Ticket

A ticket expires 14 calendar days after the excavation start date. No excavation should take place after the 14th day unless an update has been made with sufficient notice.

Mandatory Positive Response

Responding to the excavator is mandatory, each operator of underground facilities shall provide a Positive Response to the notification center (i.e. OKIE811 via our Portal) prior to the expiration of the required notice period.

Excavators must check for positive response at the notification center prior to excavating or demolishing to ensure that all operators have responded and that all facilities that may be affected by the proposed excavation or demolition have been marked.

Positive response does not relieve the excavator of their responsibility to use care when digging around underground facilities. Excavators should continue to check the excavation site, emails, voicemails, text, etc. prior to calling OKIE811 to request an additional notice. OKIE811 is not responsible for any damage loss or liability that may arise due to the use or misuse of ticket response status information.

Provisions for State of Emergency Declaration

During any state of emergency declared by the Governor or Legislature that impacts the area of excavation or demolition, the time limitations of this subsection shall be inapplicable.

When Damage Occurs

When any damage occurs to an underground facility or its protective covering, the owner/operator of the facility and OKIE811 shall be notified immediately by any person who caused the damage.

Preservation of Hydrocarbon and Hazardous Liquid Markings

Around hydrocarbon and hazardous liquid, excavators must maintain markings for duration of the excavation work. If marks are no longer visible, they must update their request. This is enforced by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Excavator may be Liable to Operator for Cost of Locates

If excessive and unreasonable requests for marking are made by an excavator when no excavation is taking place within fourteen (14) calendar days, the excavator may be liable to the owner or operator for the reasonable cost of such marking.

If requests for emergency locates are made by an excavator when there is no emergency, the excavator may be liable to the owner or operator for the reasonable cost of emergency response.

Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act As of November 1, 2021

Please check OKIE811.org for the latest version of the law

§63-142.1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act".

Laws 1981, c. 94, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1982.

§63-142.2. Definitions.

As used in the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act:

1) Certified project" means a project where the public agency responsible for the public project, in consultation with the statewide one-call notification center, as part of its procedure, certifies that the project right-of-way is free and clear of underground facilities or wherein the public agency responsible for such project, as part of its procedure, notifies all persons determined by the public agency to have underground facilities located within the construction right-of-way and certifies that all known underground facilities are duly located or noted on the engineering drawings for the project;

2) "Damage" means any impact upon or removal of support from an underground facility as a result of explosion, excavation or demolition which according to the operating practices of the operator of the underground facilities would necessitate the repair thereof;

3) "Demolish" means to wreck, raze, render, move or remove a structure by means of any equipment or explosive;

4) "Demolition" means the act or operation of demolishing a structure;

5) "Excavate" means to dig, compress or remove earth, rock or other materials in or on the ground by use of mechanized equipment or blasting, including, but not necessarily limited to, augering, boring, backfilling, drilling, grading, pile driving, plowing in, pulling in, trenching, tunneling and plowing; provided, however, that neither:

a) the moving of earth by tools manipulated only by human or animal power, except in a private or public easement or right-of-way, nor

b) any form of cultivation for agricultural purposes, nor any augering, dozing by noncommercial dozer operators or digging for postholes, farm ponds, land clearing or other normal agricultural purposes, nor

c) routine maintenance, nor

d) work by a public agency or its contractors on a pre-engineered project, nor

e) work on a certified project, nor

f) work on a permitted project, nor

g) the opening of a grave in a cemetery, nor

h) a solid waste disposal site which is a pre-engineered project, nor

i) any individual excavating on his or her own property and who is not in the excavating business for hire, except in a private or public

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easement or right-of way,

6) "Excavation" means the act or operation of excavating;

7) "Excavator" means a person or public agency that intends to excavate or demolish within the State of Oklahoma;

8) "Notification center" means the statewide center currently known as the Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc., which has as one of its purposes to receive notification of planned excavation and demolition in a specified area from excavators, and to disseminate such notification of planned excavation or demolition to operators who are members and participants;

9) "Operator" shall mean and include any person or public agency owning or operating underground facilities;

10) "Permitted project" means a project where a permit for the work to be performed must be issued by a state or federal agency and, as a prerequisite to receiving such permit, the applicant must locate all underground facilities in the area of the work and in the vicinity of any blasting and notify each owner of such underground facilities;

11) "Person" includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, trust or other entity, including a person engaged as a contractor by a public agency, but not including a public agency;

12) "Pre-engineered project" means a public project wherein the public agency responsible for such project, as part of its engineering and contract procedures, holds a meeting prior to the commencement of any construction work on such project in which all persons, determined by the public agency to have underground facilities located within the construction area of the project, are invited to attend and given an opportunity to verify or inform the public agency of the location of their underground facilities, if any, within the construction area and where the location of all known underground facilities are duly located or noted on the engineering drawing and specifications for the project;

13) "Public agency" means the state or any board, commission or agency of the state;

14) "Routine maintenance" means the grading of roads and barrow or drainage ditches, the removal and replacement of pavement, including excavation relating thereto and the installation and maintenance of drainage and bridge facilities, signs, guardrails, and electrical and communications facilities in or on the public rights-of-way by a public agency; and

15) ""Underground facility" means any underground line, cable, facility, system and appurtenances thereto, for producing, storing, conveying, transmitting or distributing communication (including voice, video, or data information), electricity, power, light, heat, intrastate and interstate gas pipelines, as described in 49 CFR Part 192.1, intrastate and interstate hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide pipelines, as described in 49 CFR Part 195.1, water (including storm water), steam, sewage and other commodities, and any oil and gas pipeline located in a public right-of-way.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 1995, c. 344, § 27, eff. Nov. 1, 1995; Laws 2002, c. 412, § 1, eff. July 1, 2002; Laws 2003, c. 362, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 2003; Laws 2004, c. 427, § 1, emerg. eff. June 4, 2004. Laws 2017, HB 1376 eff. November 1, 2017. Laws 2018, SB 997 eff. Immediately. Laws 2019, HB 2097 eff. November

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1, 2019. Laws 2020, SB 1225 eff. November 1, 2020.

§63-142.3. Filing of notice - Participation by municipality in statewide one-call notification center.

All operators of underground facilities shall participate in the statewide one-call notification center and shall have on file with the notification center a notice that such operator has underground facilities, the county or counties where such facilities are located, and the address and telephone number of the person or persons from whom information about such underground facilities may be obtained. A municipality shall participate in the statewide one-call notification center as provided for in this section.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 1992, c. 25, § 1, emerg. eff. March 30, 1992; Laws 2003, c. 362, § 2, eff. Nov. 1, 2003; Laws 2016, c. 151, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 2016.

§63-142.4. Filing fees.

A. As provided for in this section, the notification center shall charge and collect fees from operators filing notices pursuant to Section 142.3 of this title, except for rural water districts which have less than one thousand one hundred meters and municipalities which have a population of less than three thousand (3,000).

B. Upon the initial filing of a notice or statement and annually thereafter, a fee shall be collected in a manner as provided for in Section 142.10 of this title. The fee shall be due and payable on January 1 of each year. Failure to pay such fee on or before February 1 of such year shall result in the filing being void and the notification center shall remove such operator from the list of operators having underground facilities in the county. Such operator may thereafter file again pursuant to this act, but only upon payment to the notification center of the above specified initial filing fee and an additional late filing fee of Fifty Dollars ($50.00).

C. The notification center shall maintain a current list of all operators on file pursuant to this act and shall make copies of such list available upon payment of the appropriate fees.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 4, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 2003, c. 362, § 3, eff. Nov. 1, 2003..

§63-142.5. Certain excavations, demolitions and explosions prohibited near certain facilities.

No excavator shall demolish a structure, discharge an explosive or commence to excavate in a highway, street, alley or other public ground or way, a private easement, or on or near the location of the facilities of an operator without first complying with the requirements of the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act and the Oklahoma Explosives and Blasting Regulation Act.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 5, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 1995, c. 344, § 28, eff. Nov. 1, 1995.

§63-142.6. Notice of proposed demolition, explosion or excavation - Marking or providing location of facilities - Emergencies.

A. Before an excavator shall demolish a structure, discharge any explosive or commence to excavate in a highway, street, alley or other public ground or way, on or near the location of an operator's underground facilities, or a private easement, such excavator shall first notify all operators in the geographic area defined by the notification center who have on file with the notification center a notice pursuant to Section 142.3 of this title to determine whether any operators have

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underground facilities in or near the proposed area of excavation or demolition. When an excavator has knowledge that an operator does not have underground facilities within the area of the proposed excavation, the excavator need not notify the operator of the proposed excavation. However, an excavator shall be responsible for damage to the underground facilities of an operator if the notification center was not notified. When an excavator has actual knowledge that an operator has unmarked hydrocarbon and hazardous liquid underground facilities within the area of proposed excavation, the excavator shall not commence excavation or demolition until notice has been given and such facilities have been marked. For purposes of this section, "actual knowledge" shall mean direct and clear knowledge; provided, however, actual knowledge may be demonstrated through circumstantial evidence and if the circumstances are such that a defendant must have known, an inference of actual knowledge is permitted. The excavator shall maintain and preserve all hydrocarbon and hazardous liquid markings for the duration of the excavation or demolition and shall notify the notification center if such marks are no longer visible or are removed and underground facilities have not been exposed. An excavator must check for positive response at the notification center prior to excavating or demolishing to ensure that all operators have responded and that all facilities that may be affected by the proposed excavation or demolition have been marked. Notice shall be given no less than forty-eight (48) hours, excluding the date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the commencement of the excavation or demolition. Notice shall expire fourteen (14) calendar days from the excavation start date. No excavation may continue after the fourteenth day unless subsequent notice has been submitted pursuant to notice requirements. If excessive and unreasonable requests for marking are made by an excavator when no excavation is taking place within fourteen (14) calendar days, the excavator may be liable to the owner or operator for the reasonable cost of such marking.

B. Each operator served with notice in accordance with subsection A of this section either directly or by notice to the notification center shall, prior to the date and time work is scheduled to begin, unless otherwise agreed to between the excavator and operator, locate and mark or otherwise provide the approximate location of the underground facilities of the operator in a manner as to enable the excavator to employ hand-dug test holes to determine the precise location of the underground facilities in advance of excavation. However, during any state of emergency declared by the Governor or Legislature that impacts the area of excavation or demolition, the time limitations of this subsection shall be inapplicable. Each operator shall provide a positive response to the notification center prior to the expiration of the required notice period. This response shall indicate the status of the required activities of the operator or designated representative in regard to the proposed excavation or demolition. For the purpose of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, the approximate location of the underground facilities shall be defined as a strip of land two (2) feet on either side of such underground facilities. Whenever an operator is served with notice of an excavation or demolition and determines that the operator does not have underground facilities located within the proposed area of excavation or demolition, the operator shall communicate this information to the excavator originating the notice prior to the commencement of such excavation or demolition.

C. The only exception to subsection A of this section shall be when an emergency exists that endangers life, health or property. Under these conditions, excavation operations may begin

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immediately, providing reasonable precautions are taken to protect underground facilities. All operators of underground facilities within the area of the emergency must be notified promptly when an emergency requires excavation prior to the location of the underground facilities being marked. If requests for emergency locates are made by an excavator when there is no emergency, the excavator may be liable to the owner or operator for the reasonable cost of emergency response

D. Every notice given by an excavator to an operator pursuant to this section or to the notification center pursuant to Section 142.3 of this title shall contain at least the following information:

1. The name of the individual serving such notice;

2. The location of the proposed area of excavation or demolition;

3. The name, address and telephone number of the excavator or excavator's company;

4. The excavator's field telephone number, if one is available;

5. The type and the extent, not to exceed five hundred (500) linear feet in incorporated areas or one (1) linear mile in unincorporated areas, of the proposed work;

6. Whether or not the discharging of explosives is anticipated; and

7. The date and time when work is to begin.

E. In marking the approximate location of underground facilities, an operator shall follow the standard color coding described herein:

Operator and Type of Product

Specific Group - Identifying Color

Electric Power Distribution and Transmission
Safety Red

Municipal Electric Systems
Safety Red

Gas Distribution and Transmission
High Visibility Safety Yellow

Oil Distribution and Transmission
High Visibility Safety Yellow

Dangerous Materials, Product Lines, Steam Lines
High Visibility Safety Yellow

Telephone and Telegraph Systems
Safety Alert Orange

Police and Fire Communications
Safety Alert Orange

Cable Television
Safety Alert Orange

Water Systems
Safety Precaution Blue

Slurry Systems
Safety Precaution Blue

Sewer Systems
Safety Green

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 2003, c. 362, § 4, eff. Nov. 1, 2003; Laws 2016, c. 151, § 2, eff. Nov. 1, 2016. Laws 2019, HB 2097 eff. November 1, 2019. Laws 2020, SB 1225 eff. November 1, 2020, HB 2028 eff. November 1, 2021.

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§63-142.7. Use of powered or mechanized equipment - Exemptions.

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, powered or mechanized equipment shall not be used directly over marked routes of underground facilities until the precise location of the underground facilities has been determined by the excavator, and then only after the facilities have been exposed and properly protected to avoid damage to them. If the precise location of the underground facilities cannot be determined by the excavator, the operator thereof shall be notified by the excavator so that the operator can determine the precise location of the underground facilities prior to continuing excavation or demolition.

B. The only exception to the prohibition of the use of powered or mechanized equipment directly over marked routes of underground facilities shall be for the removal of pavement or masonry, and then only to the depth of such pavement or masonry.

Laws 1981, c. 94, § 7, eff. Jan. 1, 1982.

§63-142.8. Additional notice required.

In addition to the notice required by Section 142.6 of this title, whenever the demolition of a structure is proposed, operators in the geographic area defined by the notification center who have a notice on file with the notification center pursuant to Section 142.3 of this title shall be given at least seven (7) business days' notice of the proposed demolition before the demolition work begins. Such notice shall be initiated by the notification center after the excavator has met local code requirements for a demolition permit. When an operator is served with notice and determines that underground facilities are within the proposed area of demolition and such facilities require additional protection, service removal or termination, the operator shall communicate this information to the excavator and by mutual agreement the operator and excavator shall determine a date to begin the demolition which shall not exceed sixty (60) business days from the original demolition notice. If a public agency determines that the structure endangers the public health or safety, then the public agency may, in the manner provided by law, order the immediate demolition of the structure.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 8, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 2003, c. 362, § 5, eff. Nov. 1, 2003; Laws 2004, c. 427, § 2, emerg. eff. June 4, 2004.

§63-142.9. Damage to underground facilities.

A. When any damage occurs to an underground facility or its protective covering, the operator thereof and the notification center shall be notified immediately by the excavator who caused the damage.

B. Upon receiving notice of such damage, the operator shall promptly dispatch personnel to the location to effect temporary or permanent repairs.

C. Should damage occur that endangers life, health or property, any person responsible for the work shall keep all sources of ignition away from the damaged area and shall take immediate action to protect the public and property and to minimize the hazard until arrival of the operator's personnel or until the appropriate police or fire officials shall have arrived and taken charge of the damaged area.

D. An excavator shall delay any backfilling in the immediate area of the damaged underground facilities until the damage has been repaired, unless the operator authorizes

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otherwise. The repair of such damage must be performed by the operator or by qualified personnel authorized by the operator.

Laws 1981, c. 94, § 9, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Laws 2018, HB 1376, eff. Nov. 1, 2017, HB 2028 eff. November 1, 2021

§63-142.9a. Damage to underground facilities – Liability - Injunction.

A. Any excavator, except for a public agency who fails to comply with the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act and who damages an underground facility owned or operated by a nonprofit rural water corporation organized pursuant to Section 863 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes or a rural water district organized pursuant to the Rural Water, Sewer, Gas, and Solid Waste Management Districts Act, shall be liable for the underground damage to and responsible for the repair of such facilities. Any new underground facilities installed on and after September 1, 1992, shall contain materials capable of being detected so that the facilities can be accurately located.

B. Any excavator who damages or cuts an underground facility, as a result of negligently failing to comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act or as a result of failing to take measures for the protection of an underground facility shall be liable to the operator of the underground facility for the repair of the damaged underground facility.

C. Except for public agencies, any excavator who by willful act or by reckless disregard of the rights of others, repeatedly violates the provisions of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act and repeatedly damages underground facilities, thereby threatening the public health, safety, and welfare, may be enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction from further excavation.

Added by Laws 1992, c. 369, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1992. Amended by Laws 2002, c. 412, § 2, eff. July 1, 2002; Laws 2003, c. 362, § 6, eff. Nov. 1, 2003.

§63-142.10. Statewide notification center.

A. This act recognizes the value of and authorizes the establishment of a statewide notification center.

B. Upon establishment, the notification center shall operate twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Notification, as required by Section 142.6 of this title, to operators who are members of or participants in the notification center, shall be given by notifying the notification center by telephone or other acceptable means of communication, the content of such notification to conform to Section 142.6 of this title.

C. All operators who have underground facilities within the defined geographical boundary of the notification center shall be required to be members in good standing of the notification center.

D. A suitable record shall be maintained by the notification center to document the receipt of the notices from excavators and positive responses from operators as required by this ac.

Public agencies, as defined in this act, shall have access to the record of underground facilities.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 10, eff. Jan. 1, 1982.

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Amended by Laws 2003, c. 362, § 7, eff. Nov. 1, 2003. Laws 2020, SB 1225 eff. November 1, 2020, HB 2028 eff. November 1, 2021.

§63-142.11. Exemptions.

Notwithstanding anything which may be contained in this act to the contrary, public agencies and their contractors engaged in work within the public right-of-way which work is a pre-engineered project, certified project or routine maintenance shall be exempt from the provisions of this act. Provided, a public agency contractor, prior to engaging in routine maintenance, shall take reasonable steps to determine the location of underground facilities in or near the proposed area of work. Reasonable steps may include utilization of the statewide one-call notification center procedures as provided for in Section 142.6 of this title.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 11, eff. Jan. 1, 1982. Amended by Laws 1986, c. 114, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 1986; Laws 2003, c. 362, § 8, eff. Nov. 1, 2003.

§63-142.12. Repealed by Laws 2016, c. 151, § 3, eff. Nov. 1, 2016.

§63-142.13. Enforcement authority – Corporation Commission.

The Corporation Commission is hereby designated as the agency to enforce the provisions of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, Section 142.1 et seq. of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, over excavation or demolition on or near or directly over the location of, and notice of damage to, oil and natural gas physical facilities which are described by the currently effective definition of "pipeline" in 49 CFR Part 192.3 and "pipeline" and "pipeline system" in 49 CFR Part 195.2. Enforcement authority granted in this section shall be concurrent with and shall not be construed to modify or limit any private right of action, including those available pursuant to Section 142.9a of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Terms used in this section shall be as defined in the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act.

Added by Laws 2014, c. 243, § 1, emerg. eff. May 9, 2014.

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OKIE811 Education Events

In an effort to make our Oklahoma Underground Safety Education programs more relevant and beneficial to those attending, OKIE811 is offering Safety Days across Oklahoma. Our goal is to reach excavators, contractors and county/municipal personnel in these areas and provide underground facility safety education, best practices, and facilitate outdoor safety demonstrations. Check out our educational events page for dates and more information.

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