



# **EXCAVATOR GUIDE**

## **Published May 2025**

**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.

## 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.

## To Request a Locate:

OKIE811.org then select either Homeowner Portal or Excavator Portal on the blue banner at the top.

Locate Requests to have lines located can be submitted 24/7

Dial 811 (within Oklahoma)

(800) 522-OKIE (6543)

## 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 Date of Notification starts the next business day after the holiday.

*For an up-to-date copy of this publication go to [OKIE811.org](http://OKIE811.org).*

# Preface

This guide is designed for professional excavators and contractors involved in underground utility services in Oklahoma. Its purpose is to serve as a reference tool to maximize the benefits of Oklahoma's 811 System (OKIE811) and the range of services it offers. Provided free of charge by OKIE811 members, this guide emphasizes safety and protection when working around crucial underground facilities.

This guide is based on the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act. Key points have been highlighted and simplified for ease of use, making it a practical resource for both excavators and facility operators. However,

OKIE811, including its officers, employees, and agents, does not guarantee the accuracy of the guide and advises that it should not be used as a legal reference. For legal interpretations, consult a qualified attorney.

A copy of the Oklahoma law is available at the end of this guide or online at [OKIE811.org](http://OKIE811.org). The guide remains the property of Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc., but you may copy or scan it as needed. To request physical copies, email [education@OKIE811.org](mailto:education@OKIE811.org), call 811 within Oklahoma, or dial 800-522-6544 outside of Oklahoma.



# Table of Contents

<b>6</b>	<b>Glossary</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>OKIE811 Education &amp; Outreach</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Getting to Know 811</b>
	A. OKIE811
	B. Excavator/Contractor
	C. Owner/Operator
	D. Risks of Not Using OKIE811
<b>13</b>	<b>Before Contacting OKIE811</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>What to Expect When Contacting OKIE811</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>After Contacting OKIE811</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>What Do The Markings Mean?</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>5 Steps for Safe Excavation</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Tolerance Zone</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Signs Of A Damaged Line</b>
	- What To Do If There is a Leak
	- How to Report a Damage
<b>31</b>	<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Common Ground Alliance's Best Practices</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Law Updates</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>The Law</b>





Let's work  
**together**  
to keep our communities  
**safe**



**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 communities safe. For all excavation and digging projects, be safe and visit [OKIE811.org](http://OKIE811.org) to check for positive response before beginning your project.

**SCAN HERE**

to learn more about  
safe digging practices.



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[oklahomanaturalgas.com](http://oklahomanaturalgas.com)

# Glossary

## 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.

## Design Survey Request

A notice to facility operators to provide

underground facility information during the design or engineering phase of a project to prevent potential impact to existing underground facilities.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Pothole (a.k.a., test hole)

Exposure of a facility by safe excavation practices to ascertain the precise horizontal and vertical position of underground lines or facilities. Accepted safe excavation practices vary by state/local jurisdiction, but the preferred techniques include hand digging with extreme caution and/or vacuum excavation.

## 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.

## 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. {14.2.2 (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.



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For More information, Contact us today!  
[www.linequest.com](http://www.linequest.com)

# Safe Digging

Keeps the water flowing.

As Oklahoma's largest water utility, we're committed to safeguarding the public health and safety of 1.4 million residents in Central Oklahoma through the distribution of clean, fresh drinking water.

We rely upon Oklahoma One-Call and the utilities and contractors who use 811 to ensure we can keep the water flowing for everyone we serve.

Call before you dig. Call Okie 811.



The City of  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
Utilities Department



# OKIE811 Education & Outreach

## Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO

From Guymon to Idabel, Miami to Altus, and everywhere in between, underground utility lines are essential for over 4 million Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO brings together professional contractors, excavators, underground facility operators, the state's 811 Center, and safety industry professionals. The event focuses on educating, training, and sharing ideas to enhance excavation safety in Oklahoma. The EXPO features networking opportunities, expert-led breakout sessions, safety certifications, and more. For further details, visit [okexcavationsafety.com](http://okexcavationsafety.com)



## OKIE811 Regional Safety Days

To make Oklahoma Underground Safety Education more relevant and beneficial, OKIE811 is hosting Safety Days throughout the state. These events aim to reach excavators, contractors, and county/municipal personnel, providing education on underground facility safety, best practices, and outdoor safety demonstrations.

## OKIE811 Excavator Certification Program

In partnership with Damage Prevention Academy, OKIE811 offers an Online Excavator Certification Program. This training covers Oklahoma excavation regulations and Best Practices for Safe Digging and Damage Prevention. Start your online training at [OKIE811.org/Training](http://OKIE811.org/Training).

## OKIE811's Educational Webinars

OKIE811 hosts a series of online educational webinars led by industry experts. These webinars cover various topics, including safe excavation practices and OKIE811 membership. Attendees receive a Certificate of Attendance. If you can't attend live, register to receive a recording to watch at your convenience. Check the schedule and register at [OKIE811.org/educationevents](http://OKIE811.org/educationevents).

## OKIE811 Podcast

Stay informed about safe excavation and damage prevention with the "Digging Deep" podcast. Hosted by industry professionals, this podcast covers a range of topics and is available on all major podcast platforms.

## OKIE811 YouTube Channel

Missed a webinar or want to watch podcast videos? Visit the OKIE811 YouTube channel for these and other informative videos. Find our channel here: [YouTube.com/@OKIE811](https://www.youtube.com/@OKIE811).

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**For the latest information and updates to all these programs and more please visit [OKIE811.org/damageprevention](http://OKIE811.org/damageprevention)**

# Getting to Know 811

## Who We Are

OKIE811 is a non-profit organization established in Oklahoma in 1979. We are funded by member companies, which include underground facility owners and operators in the state. In 1982, the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act was enacted to support the operations of the 811 Center in Oklahoma.

## What We Do

OKIE811 serves as a central communication hub between excavators and underground facility owners/operators. In 2023, OKIE811 processed over 1.1 million locate requests, resulting in more than 6.2 million notifications sent to our member companies. These requests alert facility operators about upcoming excavation work so they can mark the location of their underground facilities.

## How It Works

To submit a locate request, visit our website or call our contact center. The service is FREE for those making the request. After processing, notices are sent to each facility operator with lines in the excavation area. These operators will then send a locator to mark the underground lines. Notice must be given at least 48 hours in advance, excluding the day of notification, weekends, and legal holidays, before starting excavation or demolition.

Underground facility operators are committed to ensuring safety and protecting their lines. By following these procedures, you help keep yourself and your crew safe.

# Excavator / Contractor's Role

## Anyone planning to excavate is required to:

- **Notice Requirement:** Before starting excavation, you must provide notice at least 48 hours in advance, excluding the day of notification, weekends, and legal holidays.
- **Provide Accurate Information:** Supply precise details about the excavation site and the scope of work. It is highly recommended to mark the dig site with white paint to help locators identify the exact location of your job.
- **Identify Underground Facilities:** After receiving a positive response and locating the marks on the ground, use hand-digging to determine the exact location of underground facilities.
- **Protect Exposed Facilities:** Once you expose an underground facility, it is your responsibility to protect it.
- **Report Issues:** If you cannot find the exact location of an underground facility, notify OKIE811 to submit a Second Notice. If any damage occurs to facilities, immediately report it to the operators and OKIE811.
- **Delay Backfilling:** Do not backfill the area until repairs to any damaged facilities have been completed.

# 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:

- 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
- Death or injuries
- Medical treatments
- Loss of wages
- Interrupted services of vital utilities such as heat and water



# PIPELINE SAFETY FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCAVATORS

**Contacting 811 is just the beginning; it opens the door to safe excavation.**

ONEOK values communication during the entire excavation process. The conversation doesn't stop when underground utilities have been located.

## REVIEW POSITIVE RESPONSE

Important pipeline safety information may be included in our response to you. Please monitor emails, phone calls and the one call portal for each of your excavation projects submitted.

## RESPECT THE TOLERANCE ZONE

It's crucial for excavators to exercise caution within the Tolerance Zone and, if necessary, use hand digging or hydro excavation equipment to expose the pipeline safely.

## CALL ONEOK 48 HOURS BEFORE CROSSINGS

Positive Response will contain important contact information. Only properly qualified personnel can verify the exact depth and location of the pipeline.

## STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY IF YOU WITNESS UNSAFE EXCAVATION

If you see something, say something. Unsafe excavation practices threaten not only your safety but also the safety of those around you.

ONEOK is committed to ensuring that your project is completed safely and on time.





# Before Contacting OKIE811

## Plan Your Work

Safe excavation starts with thorough planning. Before reaching out to OKIE811, make sure you're aware of everything at the worksite. By investing time in researching the site, you can save time, energy, and money while ensuring crew safety and preventing damage to underground utilities.

## Large Projects

These projects require special attention and coordination to manage the increased risks associated with their size and scope. Excavators can submit a pre-excavation meeting request at least 14 days before beginning work. This meeting allows all stakeholders, including underground facility operators, to plan and coordinate the excavation activities effectively. For more information, check out the overview of updates of the law on page 33.

## Site Research

At the worksite, assess the area for potential safety hazards and private lines. The worksite

includes the planned excavation area as well as the surrounding area that needs to be checked for underground utilities. Before you start digging, investigate the site using resources like land records, pipeline surveys, as-built plans, input from workers in the vicinity, and a visual inspection for signs of underground facilities. This helps ensure your crew can safely excavate and trench.

**Private or customer-owned lines are typically installed after the initial service was set up.**

**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



# Did you make that call?



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Boardwalk Pipelines is committed to operating pipeline assets in a safe, reliable and compliant manner and providing the highest level of customer service.



**Private lines are common on most jobs. When inspecting the site, look for indicators such as:**

- Propane storage tanks
- Detached garages or outbuildings with lighting
- Pool heaters or gas grills
- Underground sprinkler systems

Do not start digging until these buried lines have been located and marked. OKIE811 member companies do not locate private lines. You will need to hire a private locator to identify these lines, and there may be associated costs.

## White Lining

White lining involves marking the excavation area with white paint or flags before contacting OKIE811. This practice helps utility locators work more efficiently and makes it easier for excavation crews to identify the dig site.

### White Lining Guidelines:

- Mark the area before contacting OKIE811
- Use only white paint and/or flags
- Paint dashes, lines, or arrows
- Each mark should be about 2 inches wide and 6 to 12 inches long
- Space the marks no more than 20 feet apart, depending on site conditions
- For linear work, mark the centerline
- Reference the white markings when submitting your locate request by linear path, radius of markings, or all within perimeter or boundaries.

Examples: 10 ft either side of white markings, 10 ft radius of white markings, or locate all within boundaries marked by white paint and flags.



As a premier provider of construction services in the energy, utility, and civil construction industries, we safely and efficiently execute each component of our customers' projects. By our team's hard work, K&D Services has developed a reputation of delivering unparalleled results through a myriad of projects across the United States.



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## **OKIE811 Excavator Certification Program**

**GET 811 CERTIFIED!**

In partnership with Damage Prevention Academy, OKIE811 offers an Online Excavator Certification Program. This training covers Oklahoma excavation regulations and Best Practices for Safe Digging and Damage Prevention. Start your online training at [OKIE811.org/Training](http://OKIE811.org/Training)



## 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, you must give at least 48 hours' notice, excluding the day of notification, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before starting any excavation or demolition.

## Locate Request Submission

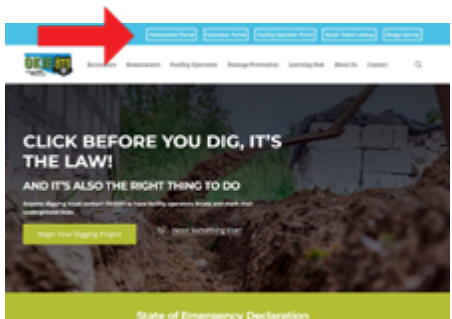
You can submit a locate request through the following methods:

- **Website:** OKIE811.org
- **Phone:** Dialing 811 within Oklahoma
- **Toll-Free:** Call 800-522-6543 from outside of Oklahoma

## Website

Over 78% of locate requests are submitted electronically, which is available 24/7 and is the quickest option, eliminating hold times.

There are several options when submitting a request online. Go to the blue banner on the top of our website: OKIE811.org.



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

- **Homeowner Portal:** For homeowners doing work on their own property.
- **Excavator Portal:** For professional excavators and contractors working for others.
- **Design-Survey:** For surveyors and designers who are not digging within the next 14 days.
- **Quick Ticket Lookup:** For checking positive responses and ticket information with a ticket number.
- **Public Dashboard:** While some information on locate requests is proprietary, you can research locate activity to know what is taking place in your area. Because of the amount of data on the dashboard, it is recommended to use it with a computer instead of our phones.

## Phone Call

If you prefer to submit by phone, simply dial 811 within Oklahoma or call 800-522-OKIE (6543) from outside the state. The process is quick if you have all the necessary information ready. After navigating a brief automated menu, an agent will assist you with your request.

To avoid any wait time, consider submitting your request online at OKIE811.org.

## Ticket Expiration

A locate ticket is valid for 14 calendar days after the excavation start date. Excavation must stop after the 14th day unless the ticket is updated with proper notice.



# 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

## Ticket Types

### Normal Locate Request

A normal locate request is a non-emergency request where the excavator contacts OKIE811 at least 48 hours before starting work. This excludes the date of notification, weekends, and holidays.

requiring immediate excavation. While excavation can begin right away, excavators must take extra precautions to protect underground facilities. It's best to call OKIE811 before digging, but if not possible, contact them as soon as you can. All underground facility operators in the affected area must be notified immediately.

### Emergency Locate Request

In emergencies, the law allows an exception to the three-business-day notice requirement. An emergency is defined as an unavoidable situation that poses a danger to life, health, or property,

If an emergency locate request is made without a genuine emergency, the excavator may be liable for the costs associated with the emergency response.

## Demolition Request

Oklahoma law requires a minimum of 7 business days' notice to underground facility operators before any structure demolition begins. This excludes weekends and legal holidays. This notice is submitted to the OKIE811 notification center after the excavator has obtained the necessary local demolition permits.

Important: This notice does not replace the need to directly notify underground facility operators to have lines disconnected. A new 811 notification must be made at least 3 business days before the actual demolition begins.

## Design Survey Request

During the design or engineering phase of a project, you can submit a Design Survey Request online to gather information about underground facilities

## Pre-Excavation Meeting Request

For large projects, excavators may submit a Pre-Excavation Meeting Request at least 14 days before work begins. This meeting ensures that all stakeholders, including underground facility operators, can plan and coordinate the excavation activities

## Ticket Number

Once your locate request is submitted and all information validated, OKIE811 will assign a 14-digit confirmation number. Keep this ticket number accessible at the job site for 14 calendar days. Be sure to review the list of member companies notified and remember that private lines are the landowner's responsibility and likely won't be marked by a member company. If work extends beyond 14 days or if marks are destroyed, be sure to update your ticket.

All communications with OKIE811 are recorded and kept for 4 years to ensure protection for both excavators and facility owners/operators, as well as for quality assurance.

# After You've Contacted OKIE811

Once you've notified OKIE811 and a ticket has been created, a notification is sent to all member companies with assets in the excavation area. On average, 6 member companies are notified per locate request. After receiving your ticket number, you can visit [OKIE811.org](http://OKIE811.org) to view, print, or email the ticket details. Member companies will then send a technician to mark their facilities or provide a "positive response" if no facilities are present in the excavation area.

Make sure your contact information is accurate, and if any errors are found, notify OKIE811 to correct them.

## Wait the Required Time

The start date and time of the work are provided on your locate request ticket. Excavation cannot begin until the ticket becomes valid on that date and time.

## Positive Response

According to Oklahoma law, all underground facility operators must provide a positive response via OKIE811's system before the required notice period expires. This confirms whether their facilities have been marked or not. Excavators must check for positive responses before starting excavation to ensure all facilities in the work area have been addressed.

**18** Positive response does not eliminate the

excavator's responsibility to exercise caution while digging around underground utilities. Excavators should monitor emails, voicemails, and other communications for updates, and request additional notifications if necessary. OKIE811 is not liable for damages resulting from the use or misuse of ticket response information.

## Subsequent Notice

If a member company fails to provide a positive response or the locate is not completed by the designated start time, the excavator should submit a second notice. This will not reset the notification time requirements, but it will alert the member company of a short-notice request.

## Ticket Updates

A locate request is valid for 14 calendar days from the start date listed on the ticket. If work extends beyond 14 days or if marks are destroyed, an updated ticket is required. This update should be made at least 3 business days before the original ticket expires.

The update will result in either a "Re-Mark" or "Extend" ticket type, based on whether the markings need to be refreshed.

- **Re-Mark:** Informs facility operators that the markings need to be redone, extending the ticket's life by another 14 days. Facility operators have 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to respond.
- **Extend:** Indicates that the markings are still visible and do not need to be refreshed, also extending the ticket's life by 14 days. Facility operators may choose to verify the marks but must respond within 48 hours.

When updating a ticket, you'll be asked if the marks need refreshing, which determines if the ticket will be processed as a Re-Mark or Extend. Both ticket types will appear on the updated

locate request, and facility operators are still required to provide a positive response within 48 hours. If marks are not visible, excavation must stop, and a Re-Mark must be requested.

Note: Once an Extend ticket is submitted, further notices (2nd/3rd notices) cannot be issued since the excavator has confirmed the markings are visible. Only update your ticket if the scope of the work hasn't changed, and excavation will occur within the next 14 days. Making excessive or unreasonable marking requests without starting excavation could result in liability for the cost.

## Approximate Location

Underground facilities are marked with paint, flags, or stakes using the American Public Works Association color codes. These marks indicate the "Approximate Horizontal Location" of the facility, which is defined as a strip of land 2 feet on either side of the facility, depending on its width. Because locating technology is not exact, excavators should dig carefully and by hand near the marks to confirm the exact location. Do not assume the depth of the facility based on the markings.

## State of Emergency Declaration

In a declared state of emergency, time limitations for locate requests may be waived. Locators may still respond based on available resources, but no excavation should begin until positive responses have been received from all companies. If the emergency declaration ends and the locate request is still pending without a positive response, submit a second notice to OKIE811. The ticket is still valid for 14 days from the original start date, and updates must be made before it expires.

For more information, visit: [OKIE811.org/state-of-emergency-declaration](https://okie811.org/state-of-emergency-declaration)

# 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**



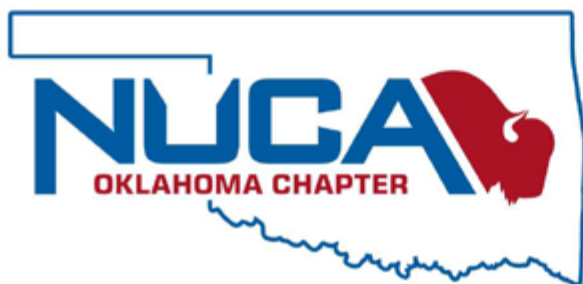
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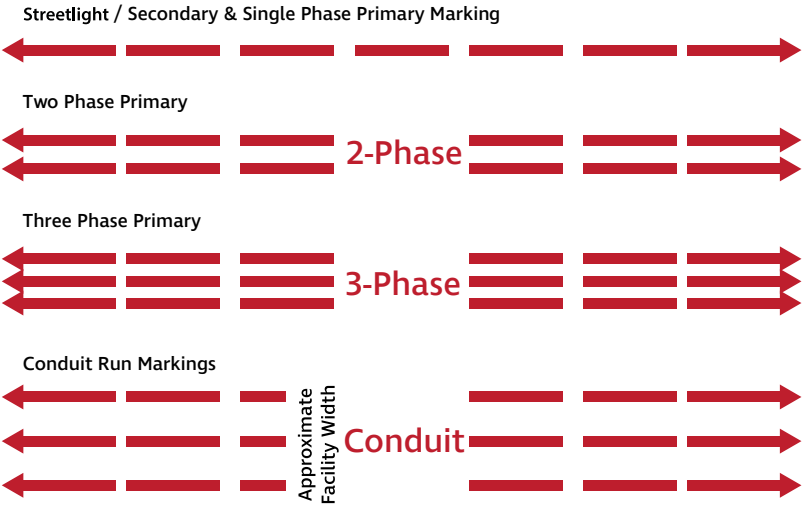
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[www.nuca.com/oklahoma](http://www.nuca.com/oklahoma)



# 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

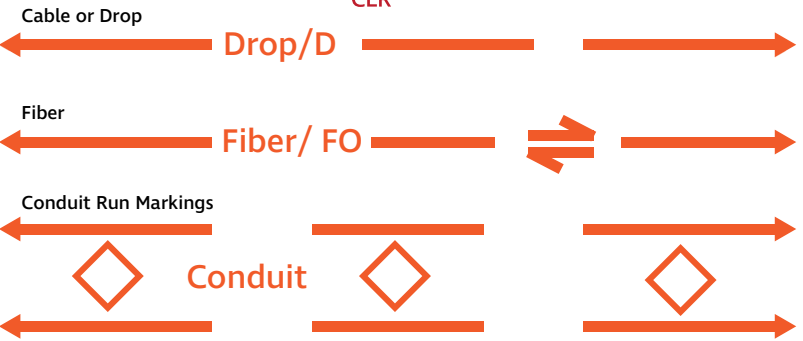


No Conflict / Clear Marking



CLR

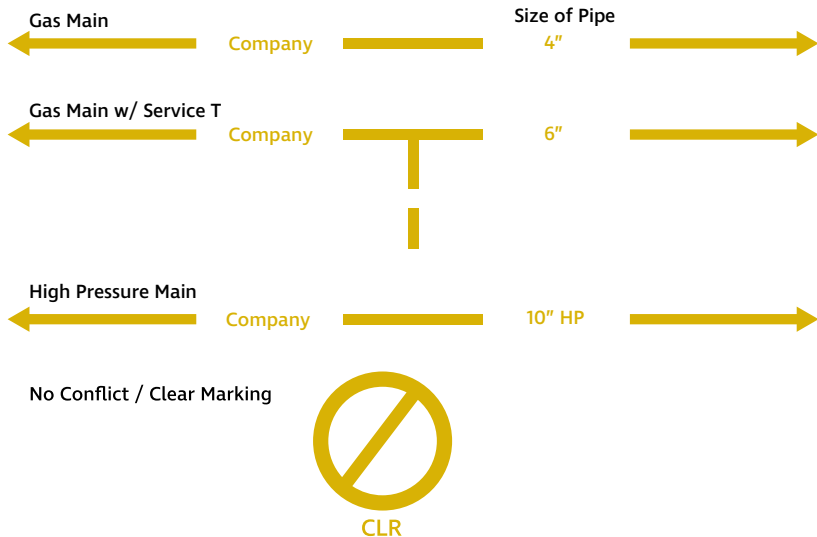
## Telephone / TV / Cable



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.

**CAUTION  
BURIED  
GAS LINE**

# ***Prevent Accidents and Protect Underground Utilities - Call 811 Before You Dig***

At Summit Utilities, we work to provide safe, reliable, and always-on natural gas. As an excavator, you play a crucial role in our mission. Digging without proper precautions can pose significant risks to underground infrastructure, the safety of your team, and our friends and family in the communities we serve. That's why following 811 dig safe guidelines is crucial. Notifying 811 before digs and excavation work is more than the law, it empowers you with the knowledge you need to prevent accidents, damages, and interruptions to utility services.

For more information about safe digging practices and our commitment to safety, visit **SummitUtilities.com/Safety**.



Visit **OKIE811.org** to request a line locate or to check out the 2024 Excavator Guide.

## **Never guess where a pipeline is located.**

Call before you dig, because even relatively minor excavation activities such as landscaping or fencing can cause damage to a pipeline, its protective casing and/or buried utility lines. A free call to 811 or visit to [okie811.org](http://okie811.org), at least 48 hours before starting any work, is all it takes.

**MIDSHIP**  
PIPELINE



# 5 Steps to Safe Excavation

## 1. Contact OKIE811 by Going to [OKIE811.org](https://www.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.

If your dig project exceeds the 14-calendar life of the ticket, excavators are required to process an update to request lines be re-marked or to extend the life of the ticket.

### 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.



**Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Stay Safe to Go Home to Your Loved Ones!**

**Look for Markers! They indicate a pipeline is CLOSE.**

**They ARE NOT at the exact location.**



**A Single Line Strike Can  
Be FATAL!**



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**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.  
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

**Call if you damage coating  
so it can be repaired.**



**Unrepaired damage  
will corrode and  
cause a leak!**

# 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.

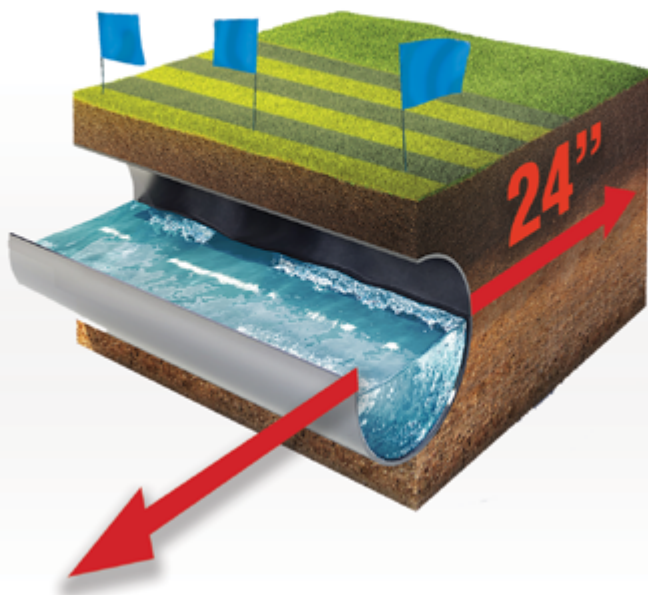
The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) has published Best Practices which includes a statement about excavating within the tolerance zone. It says:

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

### Reminder 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](http://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.



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# 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. 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. Because of variables such as erosion, excavation activity, and asset recordkeeping, utility companies may not provide depth.

## **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 22-23.

## **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: [OKIE811.org/state-of-emergency-declaration](http://OKIE811.org/state-of-emergency-declaration)

# 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](http://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.



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# Summary of the Oklahoma Underground Damage Prevention Act

The 2024 Oklahoma Underground Damage Prevention Act aims to safeguard underground facilities during excavation and demolition activities. Key provisions include:

## Key Definitions

**Excavate:** Any earth-moving activity such as digging or trenching.

**Excavator:** Anyone doing an earth-moving activity.

**Operator:** Entities owning or operating underground facilities like pipelines or cables.

**Notification Center:** The Oklahoma One-Call System (OKIE811) that handles excavation notices.

## Notification & Participation

**Operator Participation:** All underground facility operators must be part of the statewide one-call system.

**Excavator Notification:** Excavators must notify the one-call center 48 hours before starting excavation, excluding weekends and holidays.

## Marking & Excavation

**Marking:** Operators must mark their underground facilities within a two-foot-wide strip before excavation begins.

**Equipment Use:** Excavators must avoid mechanized equipment over marked facilities until the precise location is confirmed and the facility is exposed, supported, and protected.

## Damage Reporting & Response

**Damage Reporting:** Excavators must report any damage to the one-call center and the operator immediately.

**Emergency Situations:** Excavation may start immediately in emergencies, but operators must be notified as soon as possible.

## Liability & Penalties

**Liability:** Excavators are responsible for damage resulting from non-compliance, including repair and additional costs.

## Enforcement

**Authority:** The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is designated as the enforcement authority for the Act, with jurisdiction regarding excavation or demolition activities near oil and gas facilities.

## 2024 Updates to the Act (Effective November 1, 2024)

## New Definitions

**Large Projects:** Defined as projects exceeding certain distances or lasting over 90 days, requiring special coordination.

**Pre-Excavation Meeting Request:** Large or Complex projects may request a pre-excavation meeting 14 days prior to start.

**Records Retention:** All communications with OKIE811 are recorded and kept for 4 years to ensure protection for both excavators and facility owners/operators, as well as for quality assurance.

**Watch and Protect:** Requires operator presence within ten feet of their markings during excavation.

**Enhanced Notice Requirements**

**Detailed Notification:** Excavators must provide a field contact’s name and phone number.

**Watch and Protect Compliance:** Excavation cannot proceed without the operator’s representative if required.

These updates aim to enhance safety, communication, and coordination in excavation projects, ensuring better protection of underground infrastructure.



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OKIE811

# Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act

As of November 1, 2024

**\*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,

b) the moving of earth by tools manipulated only by human power for burying communication lines of a communications provider in a private or public easement or right-of-way when depth is not greater than twelve (12) inches and within twelve (12) inches of a communications provider terminal,

c) 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,

d) routine maintenance

e) work by a public agency or its contractors on a preengineered project, nor

f) work on a certified project,

g) work on a permitted project,

h) the opening of a grave in a cemetery,

i) a solid waste disposal site which is a preengineered project,

j) 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 easement or right-of-way,

shall be deemed excavation;

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

7) "Excavator" means a person or public agency that intends to excavate or demolish within this state;

8) "Notification center" means the statewide center currently known as the Oklahoma OneCall 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) "Preengineered 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;

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

OUFDA Law continued pages 35-43

and other commodities, and any oil and gas pipeline located in a private or public easement or right-of-way;

16) "Design" or "survey" means a notice to facility operators to provide underground facility information during the design or engineering phase of a project to mitigate potential impact to existing underground facilities.

17) "Watch and protect" means an operator or its designated representative is present to observe an excavation within ten (10) feet of the operator's marking of its existing underground facility;

18) "Pre-excavation meeting request" means a notice to underground facility operators to participate in scheduled meetings for the purpose of planning large projects and coordinate resources accordingly; and

19) "Large projects" are those excavation projects that involve one of the following:

a) exceeds distances defined in paragraph 5 of subsection D of Section 142.6 of this title, or

b) estimated duration is more than ninety (90) days.

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. Nov. 1, 2017. Laws 2018, SB 997 eff. Immediately. Laws 2019, HB 2097 eff. Nov. 1, 2019. Laws 2020, SB 1225 eff. Nov. 1, 2020. Laws 2023, SB 497 eff. Nov. 1, 2023. Laws 2024, HB 4095 eff. Nov. 1, 2024.

**§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

[OUFDPA Law continued pages 35-43](#)

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 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. If a positive response of watch and protect has been indicated, no excavation may take place without the operator or its designated representative present to observe the excavation within ten (10) feet of the operator's markings of its existing underground facility. Notice shall expire fourteen (14) calendar days from the excavation start date. No excavation may continue after the notice expiration 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

OUFDPA Law continued pages 35-43



is taking place prior to notice expiration, 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. If a positive response to watch and protect is indicated, the operator shall provide the name and phone number of the contact who shall be present for observation and a designated operator representative shall be on site at the ticket date and time agreed upon in writing by the excavator and operator. 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 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 1423 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 name and phone number of an excavator field contact with actual knowledge of the excavation site and project;
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

[OUFDPA Law continued pages 35-43](#)

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. Laws 2024, HB 4095 eff. Nov. 1, 2024.

**§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.**

A). 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

[OUFDPA Law continued pages 35-43](#)

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.

B) When a design or survey notice is received, operators or their designee shall provide underground facilities information within fourteen (14) calendar days from the time of the request which may include physical markings at the project site, facility mapping, or both. No excavation may take place on a design or survey notice. Operators shall provide the one-call notification center with the necessary information for notices to be sent to the appropriate person within their company or organization.

C. Excavators involved in large projects may submit a pre-excitation meeting request no less than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to beginning excavation or blasting activities. Such notification shall include the excavator's proposed meeting date, time, location, and contact information including name, telephone, and email. The date of the meeting shall be a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours after the notification has been submitted. Notwithstanding the information above, nothing prevents the excavator and underground facility operators

from choosing to meet otherwise. All affected facility owners shall be notified once the pre-excitation meeting request has been submitted and in turn will provide a positive response within seventy-two (72) hours to the notification center indicating their ability to meet on the proposed meeting date. All parties involved in the pre-excitation meeting shall coordinate a marking plan and take actions necessary to ensure proper notice requirements are met for affected facility operators.

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. Laws 2023, SB 497 eff. Nov. 1, 2023. Laws 2024, HB 4095 eff. Nov. 1, 2024.

**§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

[OUFDPA Law continued pages 35-43](#)

been repaired, unless the operator authorizes 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. Section 142.1 et seq. of this title 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 for not less than four (4) years by the notification center to document the receipt of notices from excavators and positive responses from operators as required by Section 142.1 et seq. of this title.

Public agencies, as defined in Section 142.2 of this title, shall have access to the record of underground facilities.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 94, § 10, eff. Jan. 1, 1982.  
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. Laws 2024, HB 4095 eff. Nov. 1, 2024.

**§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.