

**Public Act 174**  
**MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention  
and Safety Act.**

This ACT was created to enhance public safety, protect the environment, and prevent the disruption of vital public services by reducing the incidences of damage to underground utilities caused by excavation or blasting activity by providing notices to utility owners and utility operators before excavation or blasting.



*This is a summary and for reference only.  
Full law available at [www.missdig.org](http://www.missdig.org)*

***Prior to Excavation or Blasting***

The MISS DIG System must be contacted at 800-482-7171, 811, or online at [elocate.missdig.org](http://elocate.missdig.org) at least 72 hours, but not more than 14 calendar days in advance of construction. Be specific about the area to be affected by the proposed excavation and retain your ticket number.

Excavation must commence within 14 days of the dig start date on the MISS DIG ticket. A new ticket must be obtained if excavation has not occurred within that time frame.

***Ticket Life***

*Ticket Life From Dig Start Date In Calendar Days:*

Normal ticket life - 21 days

Project ticket life - 180 days

***Positive Response***

All MISS DIG member utility owners are required to participate in the Positive Response program. This tool collects information, from utility owners, as to the locating status of a ticket. Excavators can use Positive Response to verify if their ticket has been marked, is clear, or if utilities have yet to respond. This information is administered by MISS DIG and is available, with ticket number, online at [response.missdig.org](http://response.missdig.org) or via automated phone system at 800-763-3888.

***Verify Utility Location (hand exposing)***

Before blasting or excavating in a caution zone, an excavator shall expose all marked utilities in the caution zone by soft excavation. If conditions make complete exposure of the utility impractical, an excavator shall consult with the utility owner or utility operator to reach agreement on how to protect the utility. For excavations in a caution zone parallel to a utility, an excavator shall use soft excavation at intervals as often as reasonably necessary to establish the precise location of the utility. An excavator may use power tools and power equipment in a caution zone only after the utilities are exposed, the precise location of the utilities are established, and no visible evidence of unmarked utilities exist.

***Excavation by Power Equipment***

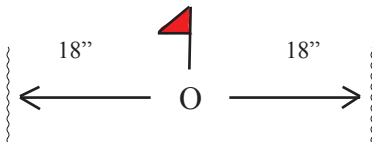
Where no other visible evidence of a utility exists, power equipment can be used in the Safe Zone. "Safe Zone" means an area 48 inches or more from either side of the utility marks.

Hand exposing must be performed prior to the use of power equipment in the Caution Zone. "Caution Zone" means the area within 48 inches of either side of the utility marks.



### *Hand Expose/Soft Excavation*

“Approximate Location” means a strip of land at least 36 inches wide, but not wider than the width of the marked utility plus 18 inches on either side of the utility marks. Excavator can request additional assistance if the location of marked utility within the approximate location cannot be determined.



*Hand Exposing*

### *Utility Response Times*

Upon receiving a notification during business hours from an excavator through the notification system of previous marks being covered or destroyed, a utility owner or utility operator shall mark the location of a utility within 24 hours, excluding all hours on non business days.

Utility owners must provide additional assistance and respond within 3 business hours under the following circumstances:

- Emergency locates (restoration of service/repair)
- Visible evidence of a utility with no marks visible
- Lack of a positive response to a ticket.
- Excavator unable to locate marked line via soft excavation

### *During Excavation*

An excavator shall provide support or bracing of utilities or excavation walls in an excavation or blasting area that are reasonably necessary for protection of the utilities.

If an excavator contacts or damages a utility, the excavator shall provide immediate notice to the utility owner or utility operator.

If an excavator damages a utility resulting in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid, or endangering life, health, or property, the excavator shall call 9-1-1 and provide immediate notice to the utility owner or utility operator. The excavator shall also take reasonable measures to protect the excavator, those in immediate danger, the general public, and the environment until the utility owner or utility operator, or emergency first responders, have arrived and taken control of the site.

### *Compliance & Enforcement*

A person who engages in any of the following conduct is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both:

- Knowingly damages an underground utility and fails to promptly notify the utility owner or utility operator.
- Knowingly damages an underground utility and backfills the excavation or otherwise acts to conceal the damage.
- Willfully removes or otherwise destroys stakes or other physical markings used to mark the approximate location of underground utility unless that removal or destruction occurs after the excavation or blasting is completed or as an expected consequence of the excavation or blasting activity.

### *Always be aware of your surroundings.*

- \* Look for visible evidence of unmarked utilities.
- \* Look for changes in depth and direction of utilities during hand exposing
- \* Contact MISS DIG if additional assistance is required.

*The information on this card has been provided by The MISS DIG System, Inc., The Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, and The Michigan Damage Prevention Board.*

[www.missdig.org](http://www.missdig.org)  
[www.mi-ita.com](http://www.mi-ita.com)