

# Construction Advisory

CA 2013-03  
May 1, 2013

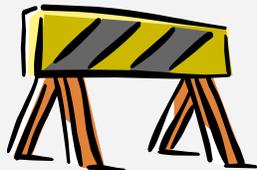
From Brenda O'Brien, Engineer of Construction Field Services

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Index: Environment

Questions regarding this  
Construction Advisory  
should be directed to:

Jason Gutting, Engineer of  
Construction Operations at  
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[guttingj@michigan.gov](mailto:guttingj@michigan.gov)



BJO:JG

## Historical and Archaeological Discoveries During Construction Operations

This construction advisory applies to all construction, maintenance, permits, and utility projects on MDOT right-of-way.

In the event that any staff (MDOT, consultant, local agency, contractor, etc.) encounter bones, artifacts, or buried features of possible historical or archaeological significance during construction operations on MDOT right-of-way, they must immediately cease operations in that location and notify the MDOT TSC construction engineer.

The MDOT TSC construction engineer must, immediately upon stopping work in the affected area, contact the MDOT archaeologist for consultation and direction. Communications are to be directed to the following individuals.

### Primary Contact:

James A. Robertson, Ph.D.  
MDOT Archaeologist  
517-335-2637 (office)  
[Robertsonj3@michigan.gov](mailto:Robertsonj3@michigan.gov)

### Secondary Contact (if primary is not available):

Christine N. Stephenson, M.A.  
Staff Archaeologist  
517-243-2818 (cell)  
[Stephensonc@michigan.gov](mailto:Stephensonc@michigan.gov)

If bones are discovered and there is no reasonable doubt that they are human bones, the MDOT TSC construction engineer must immediately also contact the local law enforcement agency.

It should be noted that per Michigan law, any person who willfully digs up, disinters, or moves human remains from their place of burial, or who aids in such activities without being lawfully authorized to do so can be found guilty of a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Construction Field Services is working with the Environmental Services Section to develop a Bureau of Highway Instructional Memorandum with additional details.

Please share this construction advisory with consultants, local agencies, maintenance supervisors/coordinators, and permit/utility staff in your area as well as TSC staff.