



MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Construction Safety & Health Division

MISS DIG 811: Public Act 174

The MISS DIG 811 System:

Legislation in 2013 created the MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act 174 that went into effect on April 1, 2014. This act requires that a person or public agency must provide a dig notice to [MISS DIG 811](#) on intent to excavate, tunnel, discharge explosives, or demolish at least **three business days**, but not more than 14 calendar days, before commencing the activity. Upon notification, MISS DIG 811 will notify participating members to stake their underground utility lines and/or provide overhead electric line assistance to ensure adequate clearances are maintained. The staking is only an approximation and does not indicate the exact location (to the inch) or the depth of the utility. Participating utilities include underground telephone and fiber, gas, electric, water, sewer, and storm lines and drains.

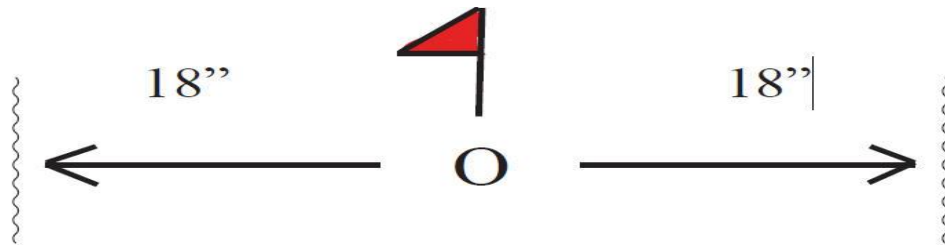
A Positive Response system, which allows facility owner/operators or their authorized locating contractor to provide status of dig notices sent to them by MISS DIG 811, is housed on the MISS DIG 811 System. Once the facility owner/operator or the locating contractor determines the status of the dig notice (such as clear or marked), they can then post that response to the system.

Public Act 174 contains requirements when excavating with power equipment in proximity to utility marks and provides guidance for both exercising “reasonable care” and identifying “when working” in close proximity to underground utilities applies.

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 marking.



Hand exposing or soft excavation. “Approximate location” is defined as a strip of land at least 36 inches wide, but no wider than the width of the marked utility, plus 18 inches on either side of the utility marks. An excavator can request additional assistance if the location of marked utility within the approximate location cannot be determined when hand digging.



Hand Exposing

MIOSHA Rules:

It is the employer's responsibility to identify all underground utilities before beginning an excavation, as required in [Part 9. Excavation, Trenching and Shoring](#).

Rule 408.40931. Locating utility lines.

Rule 931 (1) An employer shall not excavate in a street, highway, public place, a private easement of a public utility, or near the location of a public utility facility owned, maintained, or installed on a customer's premises, without having first ascertained the location of all underground facilities of a public utility in the proposed area of excavation.

Rule 931(2) Upon receiving the information from the public utility, an employer shall exercise reasonable care when working in close proximity to the underground facilities of any public utility. If the facilities are to be exposed, or are likely to be exposed, **only hand digging** shall be employed in such circumstances and such support, as may be reasonably necessary for protection of the facilities, shall be provided in and near the construction area.

Rule 931(3) When any contact with, or damage to, any pipe, cable, or its protective coating, or any other underground facility of a public utility occurs, the public utility shall be notified immediately by the employer responsible for operations causing the damage. If an energized electrical cable is severed, an energized conductor is exposed, or dangerous fluids or gasses are escaping from a broken line, the employer shall evacuate the employees from the immediate area while awaiting the arrival of the public utility personnel.

Employers must comply with both MIOSHA Part 9. Excavations, Trenching and Shoring, **and** MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, Public Act 174 of 2013.

MIOSHA also encourages contractors to contact their local Damage Prevention Association (DPA). The website link gives a listing of all the DPAs' in Michigan: [DPA Groups – MISS DIG System, Inc. - Michigan](#). These associations are a source for knowledge and the sharing of information to help contractors perform their job safely.

For additional assistance, please contact the Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7680 or the Consultation Education and Training Division at 517- 284-7720. Construction Safety Standards can be viewed on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.



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