



STATEWIDE'S EDGE

Giving public entities the edge on addressing their safety issues

Loss Control and Risk Management Services

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STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND LOSS CONTROL FACT SHEET - #2010-02 Call Before You Dig

The Underground Facility Protection Act, better known as the “One Call Law,” was signed into law in October 1994. This law requires that **anyone digging must call 1-800-272-1000 or 811**, so that operators can mark out their underground utilities.

The One-Call system will notify the operators of underground facilities to mark out your planned activity. You must wait three business days for your mark out and not more than 10 days before you start your project. Your notification is good for 45 business days. The person/company doing the excavation is required to call the Center. The information needed to process your request is as follows: Name, address, the dig address and the nearest intersection, how deep you are digging, the type of work and where you need the property marked out. You cannot work outside the scope of work stated on your request. You will receive a ticket number, which you should keep until your project is safely completed.

You must hand dig within 2 feet of mark outs before using mechanized equipment.

The color code markings for utilities are: **Red-electric**; **Yellow-gas, oil, dangerous materials, product & steam lines**; **Orange-CATV communication**; **Blue-water**; **Green-sewer**; White-proposed excavation.

The following steps should be taken:

- Always call the One Call Center prior to digging within the time frame at **1-800-272-1000 or 811**.
- Be ready with all important information: The municipality, street address, type and extent of work, caller's name, contact person name, address and phone numbers.
- Then, wait for the site to be marked! Marking could be paint, flags or stakes.
- Respect and protect the facility operator's marks. Note the color of all markings used and what type of facilities they indicate.
- Dig with care! Always hand dig within 2 feet on either side of any marked lines.
- If damage, dislocation, or disturbance of an underground utility line occurs, immediately notify the affected facility, utility or pipeline operator.
- If damage creates an emergency, take immediate steps to safeguard health and property.

Results of not calling may include:

- Personal injury, including loss of life
- Damage to the environment
- Costly property damage
- Damage to utilities
- Costly delays and expensive repairs
- Legal problems
- Civil penalties

If you need further information call 877-256-2697 or refer to the New Jersey One-Call website at www.nj1-call.org.