



# THE Process FOR Safe Excavation

Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you. Use GSOC this time and every time.

Whether you are a professional excavator or homeowner, in accordance with Minnesota State law, you must contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting any excavation project if you are using any machine-powered equipment of any kind, or explosives. You may be simply installing a new mail box or planting a tree, whatever the project may be, contacting GSOC before starting your project may allow you to avoid costly damages to underground facilities.

## File Locate Request

Beginning online using ITIC, over the phone by calling GSOC, or from a mobile device using ITIC Mobile, you can file a locate request.

Specific information about the work site and the surrounding area, as well as marking instructions for the work site must be provided. Other information can also be included.

Call GSOC...  
Greater MN Area:  
(800)252-1166  
Twin Cities Metro:  
(651)454-0002  
Or go online at  
www.gopherstateonecall.org



GSOC processes the provided information, and the area gets mapped out using specialized software that detects possible conflicts with underground utilities.

GSOC then contacts each underground facility operator in the excavation area identified in the locate request.

The underground facility operators that requested notification in the excavation area dispatch locators to the described excavation site.

Locators use specialized equipment to determine the underground utilities in the excavation area. They locate and mark the horizontal location of underground facilities within the excavation site with different colored flags and paint that correspond to the specific underground facility.

## Excavation



To practice safe excavation, always hand dig within the tolerance zone (see next page).

Remember to wait 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends) after submitting the locate request. Check facility operator response using positive response on ITIC and inspect the work site for marks. Contact the facility operator if you have questions regarding their marks.

When a call is placed to a one call center, there is less than a 1% chance for the underground excavation to result in damage.

- The Common Ground Alliance's (CGA) annual DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the events submitted into CGA's Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) for the year 2014.



## Ticket Types

### LOCATE REQUEST

Use this for standard excavation projects.

Locate requests are the most common type of request processed at GSOC. This type of ticket must be requested by the excavator at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) and up to 14 calendar days from the planned start of excavation. The ticket is valid for 14 calendar days from the start date and time stated on the ticket, unless the locate markings become obscured or obliterated.

### EMERGENCY

As defined by Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D.01 subdivision 3, emergency locates are used for "a condition that poses a clear and immediate danger to life or health, or a significant loss of property."

GSOC reminds you to first call 911 whenever there is a release of flammable, toxic or corrosive gas or liquid, or a dangerous situation is created. Next, contact the facility operator involved in the emergency, then contact GSOC.

### MEET

Use this ticket type to request the facility operator to physically meet at the excavation site.

A meet should only be requested when it is difficult to precisely define the location of the excavation site in a routine locate request. The use of white markings to clearly identify the excavation area can generally be used to avoid the time and cost of a meet.

## Excavator Responsibilities - Know the Basics!

### PLAN FOR YOUR EXCAVATION

You are required to use white markings to define the entire area where excavation will occur, unless it can be shown it is not practical. Include a safety buffer when marking the area.

### NOTIFY GSOC

All Minnesota excavators, including homeowners and farmers, are responsible for notifying GSOC of their proposed excavations so facility operators with underground facilities near the excavation site can be informed of pending excavation.

ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT WORK TYPE ON YOUR TICKET

CHECK FOR ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR TICKET

ALWAYS CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR TICKET BEFORE YOU EXCAVATE

HAND DIG WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE

WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
GREEN	Sewer

