

**PART 503 - SAFETY**

**SUBPART A - ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES AFFECTING UTILITIES**

**§ WI 503.04 Buried Utilities.**

(c) EXCAVATOR AND PLANNER RESPONSIBILITIES (text taken from WI Statute 182.0175)

(1) Definitions:

“**EXCAVATION**” means any operation in which earth, rock or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment or explosives and includes grading, trenching, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing and driving and means any operation by which a structure or mass of material is wrecked, razed, rended, moved or removed.

“**EXCAVATOR**” means a person who engages in excavation.

“**PLANNER**” means a person who prepares plans and specifications for construction activities (i.e., NRCS and partnership employees).

(2) Every person who is responsible for the preparation of plans and specifications (planner) for non-emergency excavation and every excavator shall do all of the following:

(a) Take reasonable action to learn the location of any transmission facilities (utilities) in and near the area where the excavation is to be conducted.

(b) Plan the excavation to avoid to the extent possible interference with transmission facilities (utilities) in and near the excavation area.

(3) Employees are responsible to:

(a) Provide advance notice (not less than 10 working days) before needing the location of utilities within a proposed construction area (planning notice) to the Diggers Hotline system if markings are needed to plan the proposed work. A planning notice is required when known utilities will be affected by the proposed work and cannot be avoided.

(b) Not perform subsurface investigations or construction layout assistance until the Diggers Hotline system is notified and the utilities have been marked or no utilities are identified by the Diggers Hotline system.

(c) Show on the construction plans, using appropriate symbols, the **approximate** location, within the construction area, of all overhead utilities and subsurface utilities located and marked (flags or paint) by the Diggers Hotline system, during a planning notice.

(d) Record in field notebooks and show on the construction plans all permanent underground utility line markers located within the construction area. Permanent utility line markers located outside the construction area will also be shown on the construction plans when the indicated route of the utility line is within the construction area. Examples of permanent utility line markers are telephone or cable pedestals, warning signs, power poles, or reference markers.

(e) Include on all drawings involving construction work the following or similar statement:

**NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND EXCAVATORS**

Any representation made by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or the \_\_\_\_\_ County LCD, as to the approximate location or nonexistence of above or under ground hazards does not relieve the owner of the property or the excavator that is hired to complete construction, from notifying Diggers Hotline of the pending construction. You will be liable for damages resulting from construction

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activities.

- (f) Information on Diggers Hotline contacts and responses shall be requested from the landowner/excavator for recording or placement in the case file. Form SCS-ENG-6 or a Diggers ticket number may be used for recording these actions. The landowner/excavator must sign the cover page of the construction plan or provide other written certification as to contacting the Diggers Hotline system.
- (4) The excavator is responsible to:
- (a) Provide advance notice (not less than 3 working days) before the start of non-emergency excavation (excavation notice) to the Diggers Hotline system. An excavation notice shall include all of the following information:
    - (i) The name of the person providing notice.
    - (ii) The name, address and telephone number of the excavator.
    - (iii) The specific location and description of the excavation area, including the county, place, street address, nearest intersecting road, distance and direction from the nearest intersection and marking instructions.
    - (iv) A description of the intended excavation activity.
    - (v) The intended starting date of the excavation.
  - (b) Provide a repeat notice to the Diggers Hotline system if markings are destroyed or covered by excavation site activities, if the excavation does not start within 10 days of the scheduled start date or if excavation is interrupted for more than 10 days.

### §WI 503.06 State Laws.

(a) Wisconsin Statute 182.0175 requires all utilities and transmission facilities be marked in compliance with the uniform color code adopted by the American National Standards Institute. The color code is as follows:

**RED** - electric power lines  
**YELLOW** - gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or gaseous material lines  
**ORANGE** - communications, cable television, alarm, or signal lines  
**BLUE** - water, irrigation, or slurry lines  
**GREEN** - sewer or drain lines  
**PINK** - temporary survey markings  
**WHITE** - proposed excavations

All staff is to adhere with the uniform color code for marking surveys and construction work. Flags or ribbon of appropriate color will be utilized and shall not be in conflict with those colors used to mark transmission facilities.