



Miss Utility Seasonal Alert!

With the arrival of spring and better weather conditions, our Members will soon begin work on planned construction projects and roadside maintenance. With these activities come increased risks for damage to underground facilities and utilities.

Trust Members average 100 “Miss Utility” related claims each year; the majority of the claims involve Verizon lines. Utility owner repair damages range from \$3,500 to \$25,000 **per claim**. Maryland’s Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Law, more commonly known as the “Miss Utility Law,” was enacted in 1974 and amended most recently in 2010 to protect underground public service utility lines from damage and to prevent injuries and death.

All utility owners are required to participate in Miss Utility, the approved one call notification system for Maryland. Miss Utility does not mark underground utilities but contacts the utility owners who must then, themselves or through a locating service such as Utiliquest, locate and mark the underground utility at the proposed excavation site.



Remember, excavation is defined as any of the following:

- Grading
- Trenching
- Tunneling
- Scraping
- Digging
- Ditching
- Cable or pipe plowing
- Drilling
- Augering
- Driving a mass of material

Anytime you alter the surface of the ground, it is considered excavation and you must call Miss Utility and have them locate the facilities in the proposed excavation area.

All local government employees who intend to excavate must follow the Miss Utility requirements – **IT’S THE LAW.**

What to do before you dig	If you strike an underground utility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the type of work to be performed; the date, time & street address of the work; & the extent of the proposed work area. Whenever possible, identify the proposed work area with white paint. • Place your ticket request with Miss Utility by phone (1-800-257-7777) or online (http://www.missutility.net) • Everyone digging in Maryland must give notice at least 2 full business days prior to the day the work will begin. The day of the notice is not counted as one of the 2 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately report the event to the crew supervisor and the risk manager. • Immediately notify the utility if an underground utility line is damaged. • If damage creates an emergency, take immediate steps to safeguard life, health, and property by calling 911. • Take steps to protect the underground facility from further damage. • If the line was not properly marked by the locator service, take photographs of the utility damage and the locator mark using a tape measure to show that the utility was more than 18” from the locate mark. Take several pictures of the excavation site and markings. • Document the names of the employees at the scene. • If a representative from the utility comes to the excavation site after the damage is reported – obtain his/her name and write down any comments or conversations with this representative. • Forward this documentation to your LGIT Claims Analyst.

- Tickets are valid for 12 business days after the day the ticket is transmitted by Miss Utility to the owner-members.
- **BEFORE** you start work contact Ticket Check by phone (**1-866-821-4226**) or online to determine how facility owners have responded.
- If there are **NO** marks on the site **DO NOT START WORK**. An excavation may begin only when the locate ticket shows that all owners have either marked the location or have no facilities in the locate area. Locate issues must be resolved prior to excavation.
- If possible, take pictures of the markings before work is started. Protect the markings. Call for new markings if the marks are destroyed during excavation.
- Excavate with care to protect the utility and excavators. Hand dig within 18” of the marks.
- The Maryland Transportation Authority is now a Miss Utility Owner under the law.