

## SAFE EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE

Before you start digging, and during your pre-excavation meeting, confirm what infrastructure exists within your "white lined" project area.

Coordinate your work with the facility owner/operator and observe the owner's **Tolerance Zone** – the space in which a facility is located and in which special care is to be taken!



Observe the **facility owner's Tolerance Zone** and leave at least 1 metre of tolerance on either side of the located underground facility. Excavation within the **Tolerance Zone** requires care for protection of the underground facilities. Based on climate or geographic conditions they include,

- ♦ hand digging where practical,
- ♦ vacuum extraction methods,
- ♦ pneumatic hand tools, or
- ♦ other methods approved by the facility owner.

**Note that Federally regulated (NEB) oil and gas pipelines require a safety, or tolerance zone, of 30 metres. Please confirm your work plans with those organizations and respect this Federal law!**

Support and protect exposed underground facilities and notify the owner, or Sask1stCall, of unidentified facilities.

If any damage occurs to the facility, follow Emergency Response Plans and notify the owner.

Follow facility owner directions on backfilling the excavation.

Need more of these cards?

Contact: info@scga.ca Or go to: www.scga.ca

## 5 STEPS TO SAFER DIGGING

### 1. ALWAYS CONTACT SASK1ST CALL BEFORE DIGGING.

- Contact Sask1<sup>st</sup>Call 1-866-828-4888 or sask1stcall.com.
- Provide the exact location of your dig site, the type of work you'll be doing and your start date.
- Consider other facilities that may be present (RM, Rail, Water) and that are not registered with Sask1<sup>st</sup>Call.

### 2. WAIT THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF TIME.

- **Develop a Work Plan:**
  - ♦ Mark proposed work area with a white line (or black on snow).
  - ♦ Identify any equipment, personnel, permits or approvals required.
- **Perform a Hazard and Risk Assessment:**
  - ♦ Look for facility signage and other signs of ground disturbance.
  - ♦ Identify hazards and risk associated with specific underground facilities.
  - ♦ Determine controls and barriers to eliminate or reduce the risk.
  - ♦ Develop emergency response plan.

### 3. LOCATE ACCURATELY.

- **Confirm Locates:**
  - ♦ Is the record of locates available and does it match the work?
  - ♦ Check expiry date of locates.
  - ♦ Are locates marked with paint on the ground or with stakes?
  - ♦ Do the colours match approved color code?

### 4. RESPECT THE MARKS.

- Has contact been made with the identified facility owner(s)?
- Do you understand crossing agreements or approvals?
- Perform a pre-job safety meeting (tailgate) with workers:
  - ♦ Review work plan, hazards control measures and emergency response.
  - ♦ Inform workers of general/job specific safety rules and ensure they are trained.

### 5. DIG CAREFULLY.

- Has there been any change to the workplan? If so, contact Sask1<sup>st</sup>Call.
- Ensure 'exposing' is performed as required by facility owners.
- Use safe mechanical excavation procedure as per OH&S section 259.
- Respect the required tolerance zones.
- Have arrangements been made for any required site supervision?
- Report any damage to the facility owner and call 911 in emergencies.
- **Completion – work site left as required.**
  - ♦ Is the documentation completed?
  - ♦ Are stakes removed and disposed?

### DAMAGE PREVENTION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!

For more information, refer to [www.scga.ca](http://www.scga.ca)

## Uniform Colour Code for Locating Utility Lines:

### RED

Electric Power Lines, Cables Conduit and Lighting Cables

### YELLOW

Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Material

### ORANGE

Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, or Conduit

### PURPLE

Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines

### BLUE

Potable Water

### GREEN

Sewers and Drain Lines

### PINK

Temporary Survey Markings

### WHITE

Typical Conditions  
Proposed Excavation

### BLACK

Snow Conditions  
Proposed Excavation

April 2017