Field Management
Utility Locate (One Call)

FM 6.207
Rev. # 0.1

Date
11/30/2025
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Purpose:

The purpose of this SOP is to establish doctrine to schedule, locate, and maintain identity of underground utilities to foster safe excavation practices, prevent damage to underground systems, and prevent costly repairs.

1. Call Before You Dig

- **State Law Requirement:** Tennessee law requires all contractors to locate underground utilities before any excavation.

- **How to Schedule:** Dial **811** (TN811) and provide:

    - Accurate project address, including cross streets and landmarks

    TIP: Information is easily obtained from the ALTA survey (part of the civil construction documents) and Google Maps.

- **Timing:** Allow **up to 72 hours (3 business days)** for the locates to be painted on the ground – so keep this in mind for your schedule.

- **Applies To:** All ground penetration, including:

    - Silt fence trenching
    - Perimeter fencing
    - Temporary electric poles
    - Construction signage

- **Why It Matters:** Direct burial cables, coaxial cables, and fiber optic lines can be severely damaged with hand post hole diggers. Many of these kinds of lines have an outer sheathing that is charged with Nitrogen or Argon, an inert gas to prevent corrosion, and if the sheath is nicked open by hand excavation – you may not have a service interruption, but you will have a large repair bill.

2. Maintain Your One Call Number

- After scheduling, you'll receive an electronic confirmation with:

    - Project address and description
    - Locate number
    - Active time window and renewal date
    - *List of participating utilities (not all participate)*
- **Best Practice:** Set calendar reminders to renew <u>before</u> expiration.

- Tools: Use the TN811 app for tracking and scheduling.

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- **Note:** If your number expires, you must wait another 72 hours for new markings.

3. Verify All Utilities Are Located

- Review the following to be sure all utilities are located

    o One Call request details
    o Site markings
    o Utility drawings

- **Important:** Not all utilities are in TN811 and must be scheduled to locate outside the system. Common exclusions:

    o Large gas or petroleum pipelines (usually noted on the ALTA survey, along with the easements, etc. – these locates will have to be scheduled outside of the 811 system).
    o Traffic controls (synchronized intersection signals), often tied together with fiber optic cable.
    o Large scale irrigation or reclaimed water irrigation systems like large shopping centers. Like fire water and domestic water, utilizing large PVC pipe and are privately owned and not part of the 811 program.

    Action: Walk the site and schedule additional locates as needed.

4. Contact Non-Participating Utility Owners

- You are responsible for scheduling locates for utilities outside TN811.

5. Manage Compliance and Safety

- Each contractor must have their own valid One Call number—**no piggybacking** (ex. Electrical contractor using the GC's valid number and paint on the ground. They must get their own number and it will take 72 hours to be active).

- Utility markings do **not** remove responsibility for safe digging:

    o Even if utilities are painted, excavating contractor is in no way relieved of the responsibility.

    o Ensure they dig safely, exercise due caution, and use best practices to accurately locate the utilities as they dig – (looking for warning tapes, concrete encasements, hand digging in stone backfills, etc.).

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o Discuss with the excavating contractors <u>before</u> beginning excavation to make sure they understand what is required and have the correct plan in place to safely dig and not damage other utilities.

Refreshing Markings: Only refresh visible markings using correct colors. If unclear, call 811 for a re-mark. **SEE CHART FOR COLORS**

APWA Utility Color Code Chart

Color	Utility Type
White	Proposed Excavation
Pink	Temporary Survey Markings
Red	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, Lighting Cables
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
Orange	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables, Conduit
Blue	Potable Water
Purple	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
Green	Sewer and Drain Lines