



Planning, Design & Construction
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Safe Digging

- REFERENCES:** OSHA Rules 1926.651
Standard excavation marking color code
- FORMS:** [Utility Disruption Report](#)
- PURPOSE:** To assure that all pre-requisites on Mercy sites for safe excavations are met and that potential for unplanned utility disruption is minimized.
- POLICY:** Prior to start of any excavation, including minor digging, the contractor will notify the proper agency, i.e., Missouri One Call, Oklahoma One Call, Kansas One Call, Arkansas One Call, Dig-Rite, and PD&C.
- RESPONSIBILITY:** Contractor is required to notify PD&C and fill out proper paperwork with local authorities and contact owners locating service, if applicable, to assure all utilities have been located.

PROCESS:

Prior to initiating any digging, contractor must notify local authorities and location services at least 48 hours but preferably 10 days in advance of any excavation. The contractor must fill out all paperwork required by outside agencies and the Mercy Health site specific information form. The local request information form should only be filled out if requested by owner or regulatory agency.

Any excavation services which are not covered by the outside utility companies and which may be affected by the digging will be located by the contractor. The contractor must also notify the Mercy Health locating service to find any possible owned utilities which may be affected by digging. Service typically not covered are: irrigation, landscape, signage, owned utilities and communications cable.

The excavating contractor must keep and provide to owner all record drawings from work. The contractor will need to mark on drawings showing all known and unknown utilities found during excavation so owner can add their site utility drawings and confirm locations. The excavator should not backfill any excavations until owner has approved them to proceed.

All markings should conform to the standard legal color code, including:

Red	Electric	Yellow	Gas/oil/steam
Orange	Communications	Blue	Water
Green	Sewer	Pink	Temp survey markings
White	Proposed excavation	Purple	Reclaimed water
Black	Private services		

Any fine incurred as a direct result of excavator failure to properly follow the safe digging policy shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.