



VDOT GUIDELINES FOR “DAMAGE PREVENTION”

APRIL 22, 2009

JIM CLINE

LAND USE PROGRAM MANAGER

DAMAGE PREVENTION

56-265.23 - Exemption for roadway maintenance operations by the Virginia Department of Transportation and certain counties, cities and towns.

- - - Shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this chapter if reasonable care is taken to protect the utility lines placed in the right-of-way by permit and if they:

- 1) Excavate within the limits of original excavation; on the traveled way, shoulders, or drainage features of a public road, street, or highway and any excavation DOES NOT exceed eighteen inches in depth.**
- 2) Are replacing previously existing structures in their previous location.**



DAMAGE PREVENTION



ALTHOUGH VDOT IS NOT A MEMBER OF MISS UTILITY, OUR FIELD STAFF HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED SINCE 1995 TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH IN THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT.

A LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY CHIEF ENGINEER JACK HODGE AND WAS IN EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 20, 2006, WHEN CHIEF ENGINEER MAL KERLEY AND CHIEF OF SYSTEM OPERATIONS CONNIE SORRELL, BOTH SIGNED AND SENT OUT A NEW LETTER WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROCEDURES.

DAMAGE PREVENTION



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-0002

October 20, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Administrators
Residency Administrators

RE: Underground Utilities Damage Prevention Act

Recently, VDOT has been notified by the State Corporation Commission (SCC) that VDOT's maintenance crews have interfered with or damaged underground utilities located within VDOT's right of way.

Because of recent technological advancements, it is unlikely there is not a street, road or highway where underground utilities do not exist. Although, VDOT is exempt from mandatory participation, it has long been the Department's policy to voluntarily follow and comply with the Underground Utilities Damage Prevention Act. The last reminder of this practice was sent out in 1995 by the Chief Engineer.

In an effort to comply with the Telecommunication Act, we have allowed utilities to occupy VDOT's right of way upon request. Because of the seriousness and magnitude of outages caused by damage to one of these facilities, we want to caution you to review this policy with your staff to minimize incidents in the future.

In addition to this reminder, staff is planning training sessions, which will be conducted by the SCC. It is in the Department's best interest to make sure we have the most up-to-date information and apply it when permitting facilities to occupy our right of way.

VirginiaDOT.org
WE KEEP VIRGINIA MOVING

The logo for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), consisting of the letters "VDOT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a blue background with an orange curved border above it.

DAMAGE PREVENTION

District Administrators
Residency Administrators
Page 2
October 20, 2006

Attached for your information is a copy of the Excavation Procedures for State Force Work currently in place.


Malcolm T. Kirby, P. E.
Chief Engineer


Constance S. Sorrell
Chief of System Operations

Attachment

DAMAGE PREVENTION



EXCAVATION PROCEDURES FOR STATE FORCE WORK



Procedures to be followed by Departmental units when planning excavation along highways when it is likely that underground utilities may be buried near the proposed work. These procedures do not supersede the Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act , §56-265.14, which is applicable in its entirety.

DAMAGE PREVENTION



STEP 1.

Report the proposed excavation to the Miss Utility Notification Center at 800-552-7001.

Provide all required information relative to the proposed excavation as to name of person calling, location of work, type and extent of work, date to begin, name, address, and telephone number of responsible party. Additional information might be requested by Miss Utility to assist in the efficient and accurate processing of the request.

A. A waiting period of 48 hours that begins at 7:00AM the following working day must be observed if Miss Utility informs you that member operators will be notified of the proposed work. Your notifications need to be planned in advance to allow for this waiting period before commencing planned work.

B. Record all information for future reference. The ticket number should be retained for future reference.

DAMAGE PREVENTION

STEP 2.

If you have not provided Miss Utility with a facsimile number or other mutually acceptable means of automatically receiving the response information, it is your responsibility to contact Miss Utility's positive response system prior to starting work to determine if any responses have been entered for the notice. Ticket status can be checked on-line at www.missutilityofvirginia.com or by calling 800-552-3120.

A. Supervisor shall check site at least one work day prior to excavation. If site is not marked or utility operators have not responded, the supervisor shall make a second call to the notification center or utility operators as required by the Utility Act. This call requires a response by the utility operators in three hours.

B. If an unmarked operator has not responded within three hours, you are encouraged to call Miss Utility again before beginning your work.

C. Even though the above complies with the Underground Utility Prevention Act, the Department should not excavate without receiving confirmation that no utility line exists near our proposed work.

DAMAGE PREVENTION

STEP 3.

The excavation may now proceed carefully.



DAMAGE PREVENTION

Number of reported incidents:

- 1) 2006 5**
- 2) 2007 3**
- 3) 2008 1**



DAMAGE PREVENTION



DAMAGE PREVENTION



DAMAGE PREVENTION



DAMAGE PREVENTION



DAMAGE PREVENTION

QUESTIONS