

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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Week of 8/22/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

UTILITY HAZARDS

When working around underground utilities it is imperative that you know exactly where they are buried. Several days before you begin any digging, call the local utilities to come out and locate them. Many states participate in a one-call system whereby you have to make only one call and all utility lines in the specified area will be located and marked.

The tendency these days is to bury all service lines: gas, electric, telephone, and cable lines. Of course water lines and natural gas pipelines have been underground for years. Recently there has been an increase in the number of accidents caused by contractors and other excavators who fail to ensure that all underground utility lines are properly marked. Statistics show that about two-thirds of reportable accidents on natural gas pipelines are caused by excavation or construction activity. Think about the damage incurred if you cut through a buried fiber optic cable. You could be responsible for hundreds or thousands of extended service interruptions. Consider the havoc that would result if you cut the primary water or electric line to a hospital.

There are many obvious signs that underground utilities are present on the site. For example, you don't see any overhead wires. You may see a pad-mounted transformer or a utility pole with a riser. A riser is a piece of conduit that takes overhead electrical service down the pole and into the ground. A pole riser always has a warning sign facing in the direction of the path of the underground electrical service. Watch for these signs.

Gas lines present problems beyond damage and service interruptions — namely explosions and fires. A line can be damaged and start leaking even though no cut is visible on the surface. If you smell the odor of natural gas, shut down all equipment, evacuate the area, and call 911 from a telephone **outside** of the area. The smallest spark could result in an explosion. Don't forget about the dangerous situations that exist when working near overhead utility lines. Any contact with electrical line can be deadly. Look up! Keep those lines in sight and maintain safe clearances. Never touch a rig or a piece of machinery that's in motion near electric lines. Consider all wires **hot** and keep bystanders away.

The amazing thing is that accidents involving utility lines continue to occur, when all it takes is some preplanning and a phone call to keep you out of trouble.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Stop! Avoid costly and embarrassing accidents.
Call the utility company before you dig.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____