EXCAVATOR MANUAL
www.DigSafelyNewYork.com
The purpose of this document is to provide a basic understanding of your responsibilities under **16 NYCRR Part 753**, *(also cited as Industrial Code 753 or Code Rule 53)* concerning safe excavation practices and the protection of underground facilities in New York State.

This document is not intended as a legal reference, and does not contain the complete text of 16 NYCRR Part 753.

**A complete copy of 16 NYCRR Part 753 is available from:**

New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350
Administration: (518) 474-5453

Dig Safely New York, Inc.
6706 Collamer Road
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Administration: (315) 437-7394
www.DigSafelyNewYork.com

New York 811
60 Knickerbocker Avenue,
Bohemia, New York 11716
Administration: (800) 524-7603

For information on the pipeline safety, pipelines and, pipeline operators that might be located in your community, you can contact the National Pipeline Mapping System [www.npms.rspa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.rspa.dot.gov)
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Your Contact Center

Why Do I Need To Notify Before I Dig?

It’s the law in the State of New York, and it is also a necessary part of planning your work. Reviewing your work and your work area prior to the actual excavation or demolition can help save you and your company from unexpected downtime, loss of revenue and injury.

A safe excavation or demolition can be achieved by following the suggestions and processes outlined in this manual.

Who We Are

Dig Safely New York, Inc. (serving all of New York State excluding NYC and Long Island) and New York 811 (serving only NYC and Long Island) are the Contact Centers serving as a link between you, the excavator, and the utility owner operators. We process your location requests and communicate the information to the utility operators.

Dig Safely New York, Inc. & New York 811 do not mark lines!

Contact Center Hours

Dig Safely New York and New York 811 process Location Requests, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Contact Center Operation

The following will take place after you have provided all of the appropriate information to the Damage Prevention Representative (DPR).

- The DPR will read all the information back to you. Listen carefully and verify the read back for accuracy.
- You will be given a list of member utility owners the Contact Center will notify.
- You will also be given a Location Request number as proof of your call and as reference. Write down that number and retain it for your records. This number can be used to check real time status of the utility operator’s responses at www.DigSafelyNewYork.com through our Automated Positive Response (APR) system.
- Remember, not all utilities and municipalities are members of the One-Call system. If you are aware of any other underground facilities, you should contact that operator directly.
811 Before you dig

You must place a Location Request at least two (2) working days but not more than ten (10) working days before any excavation or demolition starts. *(Not including the date of your submission, holidays, and weekends.)*

You must notify the Contact Center regardless of where the planned excavation or demolition is located. Even if it is on private property, out in the middle of a field, or on a street that has no name.

You must notify the Contact Center even if you are only excavating a few inches or just surface grading. If you move material, you must notify.

You must notify the Contact Center even if the property owner tells you the site has no buried facilities, or he/she knows where buried facilities are located.

Make sure you have a proper Location Request. Don’t rely on old marks, or another excavator’s marks or location request. No piggybacking.

Mark out the area you plan to excavate with white paint, flags, or stakes. *(See page 8 for details.)*

When investigators from the Public Service Commission (PSC) inspect an excavation or demolition site, or investigate damage, they will check to see if you have a proper Location Request.

Review the Location Request Information Sheet so you will know what information you need while placing your location request *(see page 7)*.

For emergency excavations or demolitions notify your Contact Center with the location of the emergency excavation or demolition as soon as possible. To constitute an emergency, you must be on-site or on the way to the site to do the work.

**Part 753 defines an emergency as:** Any abnormal condition which presents immediate danger to life or property including discontinuance of a vital utility service necessary for the maintenance of public health, safety and welfare.
Excavation

An excavation is defined as any operation for the purpose of movement or removal of earth, rock, pavement, or other materials in or on the ground by use of mechanized equipment or by blasting.

Excavations and demolitions include, but are not limited to:

- Auguring
- Backfilling
- Boring
- Boring Holes for Percolation Tests
- Cable or Pipe Plowing or Driving
- Demolition of Structures
- Digging
- Ditching
- Dredging
- Drilling
- Driving Survey Pins
- Fence Post or Pile Driving
- Grading
- Installing Sign Poles
- Jackhammering
- Milling
- Moving Earth
- Pile Driving
- Plowing In
- Pulling In
- Razing
- Saw Cutting
- Scraping
- Setting Poles
- Tree Root Removal / Stump grinding
- Trenching
- Tunneling
- Wrecking
Location Request

Below is a reference list of the information that will be asked of you when placing a Location Request. Before placing a Location Request review the information below to have the answers ready.

Download a PDF version of this sheet at: www.DigSafelyNewYork.com

Company ID#
Today’s date
Company name
Company mailing address
Phone number
Fax number
E-mail address
Field contact name
Field contact phone number
Company or individual for whom the work is being done
Start Date and Time

NOTE: When providing your start date and time—NYS Law requires at least two (2) full working days advance notice, not including the day you call.

Duration of job provided in one of the following: Days, Hours, Weeks, Months, Years or Unknown
Confirm the state that excavation will be preformed in is New York County

Municipality: City, Town, Village
The street address of the job site
The two (2) nearest cross streets the address is located between
Where on the property are you excavating?
Depth of excavation provided in one of the following: Inches or Feet
Length of excavation provided in one of the following: Feet, Miles, Meters
Width of excavation provided in one of the following: Inches, Feet
Type of work
Means of excavation
Will there be blasting?
Will there be boring or directional drilling?
Is the dig site within 25 feet from the edge of the road or in the road?
Will you be excavating on both sides of the road?
Is the excavation site pre-marked with white paint and/or flags?
Proposed Excavations

Marking Guidelines

The following is only a guideline. Refer to the current Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Best Practices for complete details.

www.CommonGroundAlliance.com

The illustrations below (fig.1) are examples of how excavators should mark the area of proposed excavation. Use white marking products (paint, flags, stakes, whiskers or combination) to identify the excavation site.

Single Point Excavation Markings (fig. 1)

Mark with white paint the proposed area of excavation by using a continuous line, dots marking a radius or arc, dashes marking the four corners of a project or dashes outlining the excavation project. Make the dash about 6” to 12” in length and 1” in width. Space them between 4’ to 50’ apart. Make the marks close together enough to be seen by the Operator’s locators. Dots of about 1” in diameter are typically used to define arcs or radii and can be placed at closer intervals instead of dashes.

Single Stake Excavation Markings

When an excavation site is contained within a 50’ radius, or less, you can mark it with a single stake positioned at the center of the proposed excavation. If you choose this way of marking, you must tell the Contact Center you have marked the excavation site with a single stake at the center and include the radius of the site. The stake has to be white and have this information on it: excavator’s name, abbreviations, or initials, and the radius of the excavation site in black letters on the stake or a note attached to the stake.

Fig. 1
Wait The Required Time

Before you begin any non-emergency excavation or demolition you must place a Location Request at least two (2) working days but not more than ten (10) working days before any excavation or demolition starts. *(Not including the date of your submission, holidays, and weekends.)*

**Do not start an excavation or demolition before your stated commencement date and time.**

- Weekends and holidays are not working days and are not counted in the two (2) to ten (10) days between the date your location request is placed and your commencement date *(See Holidays below).*

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**Holidays:**

January 1 - **New Year’s Day**

3rd Monday in January - **Martin Luther King Day**

3rd Monday in February - **Presidents Day**

Last Monday in May - **Memorial Day**

July 4 - **Independence Day**

1st Monday in September - **Labor Day**

2nd Monday in October - **Columbus Day**

November 11 - **Veteran’s Day**

4th Thursday in November - **Thanksgiving Day**

December 25 - **Christmas Day**

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- If your excavation or demolition has not started within ten (10) working days of the stated commencement date, your location request will no longer be valid, and a new Location Request is necessary.

- If the excavation or demolition work is completely canceled, that must be reported to the Contact Center.

- Once excavation or demolition has begun, the Location Request is good for the life of the excavation or demolition. The excavator is responsible for maintaining the marks from the stated commencement date. *(See page 28)*
Confirm Utility Response

Things to Remember:

01. Facility operators will only mark-out facilities for which they are responsible.

02. Facility operators owe you a positive response through Automated Positive Response (APR), and you are responsible for making sure each operator on your location request has responded.

What is the Automated Positive Response (APR) System:

A system established by the one-call notification system to furnish a single point of contact between member operators and excavators for the purpose of communicating the status of an excavation Location Request as provided by the member operators.

By law, a facility operator can delay marking out your excavation site a maximum of two (2) working days. However, any delay of more than two (2) working days will require your consent.

If you do not hear from a facility operator identified on your location request before your stated commencement date, call the facility operator’s contact number. Do not begin excavation or demolition!

If you do not have the contact number, please call your Contact Center, OR utilize the APR system to verify responses and contact information at www.DigSafelyNewYork.com.

It is important you provide accurate field contact numbers when you notify the Contact Center for a Location Request; this is the number facility operators will call if they need to contact you regarding your location request.
Respect The Marks

01. You are responsible for maintaining the marks placed down by facility operators at your site.

02. Before you begin your excavation or demolition, walk-through the site to familiarize yourself with the markings and the locations of buried utilities. It is a good practice to photograph, videotape or make a sketch of the marks.

03. Pay special attention to any changes in the direction of the underground facilities.

04. If your excavation or demolition will cause the removal or disturbance of markings, establish offset marks in order to maintain a reference point for those underground facilities.

05. Make sure everyone involved in your excavation or demolition is aware of any established offsets, any compromised marks, or any other information regarding facility locations.

06. Don’t put spoil piles over markings. Avoid driving machinery over stakes and flags. Paved areas should be swept periodically so painted marks remain visible.

07. If marks have faded or been compromised to the point where proper and safe excavation or demolition is no longer possible, notify your Contact Center and make a request for a re-mark.

08. If your project is interrupted for more than ten (10) working days, notify your Contact Center and make a request for a re-mark.

09. If you refresh the markings at your site, make sure you use the uniform color code and identification letters to avoid any confusion. Make a note of the date and actions taken to refresh the marks.

10. Once the project is complete, it is recommended you remove any marks as best you can. This will reduce the likelihood future excavators will mistake them for marks provided in response to their own excavation notice, or assume they do not need to provide notice of intent to excavate.
Guide To Marks

The following is only a guideline. Refer to the current Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Best Practices for complete details.

www.CommonGroundAlliance.com

01. Utility lines must be indicated by markings using current APWA uniform color codes (see page 28). Markings should be 12” - 18” in length and 1” wide.

02. The owner of a facility should be indicated by initials or by name in letters 6” high at the beginning and end of the locate. On long locates, the facility owner should be indicated every 100’.

03. For operators with multiple facilities within an excavation area, for example bundled or stacked facilities, the total number of lines within the ground should be indicated when known.

04. If a facility is known to be present but the total number of lines for a facility cannot be determined a corridor marker may be used indicating the approximate width of the facility if known.

05. When known, the size of the line being located should be indicated. Line size should indicate the outside diameter of the pipe or structure.

06. Conduit or duct structures, whether single or multiple conduits or ducts, should be indicated by the conduit symbol indicating the approximate depth of the structure.

07. When known, the pressure of a gas facility should be indicated.

08. When known, termination points, dead ends and stub outs should be indicated.

09. Offset markings should be used when there is a strong likelihood that marks may be destroyed for example, (if placed directly over the facility).

Continued on next page
**Guide To Marks** continued

The following is only a guideline. Refer to the current Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Best Practices for complete details.

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01. **Marking Gas Lines** - High Pressure

02. **Marking Transmission Point, Dead End, Stub Outs**

03. **Offset Markings** - Indicate - Facility owner, Direction to facility & distance to facility

04. **No Conflict** - No facilities within the requested area.

05. **Conduit Or Duct Markings**

06. **Marking Buried Splices, Valves, Manholes**

07. **Corridor Marking** - Identification when number of facilities is not readily known.
Dig With Care

01. Before you use mechanized equipment within the tolerance zone (see page 16), you must:

   • Verify the location, type, size, direction of run and depth of the facility.
   • For gas and liquid petroleum lines, verification must be by means of hand-dug test holes.
   • The location of other utilities must also be verified by means of hand-dug test holes unless otherwise agreed upon with the facility operator.

02. Do not assume that buried facilities will be at a certain depth.

   • Facilities may have been originally installed at a prescribed depth, but later erosion or grade changes cause them to now have shallow or deep cover.

03. Verification must be performed by hand-dug test holes to expose a view of the facility.

   • If after a diligent search the facility cannot be verified in this manner, notify the facility operator. Do not assume clearance.

04. Vacuum excavation is an accepted means of verifying the location of marked facilities.

05. Mechanized equipment may be used for removing pavement, but only to the depth of the pavement.

   • Care and good judgment should be used when removing pavement.
   • Avoid starting the pavement break directly over the marked facility.
   • Wherever possible, start a few feet away from the marks and attempt to ‘peel’ off the pavement or break it into small chunks for removal.

Continued on next page
06. Verify the location of utilities before you excavate up to the edge of the tolerance zone.

- It is a good practice to assign workers to do the utility verifications ahead of the excavating crew. You’ll be providing a greater margin of safety and any problems can be resolved in time to minimize interference with the excavation.

07. If the excavation is going to cross a tolerance zone, hand-dig a test hole to expose the facility at the point of crossing.

08. If your excavation is going to parallel a utility, you should hand-dig test holes at any marked change of direction, elevation and at branch connection.

09. For relatively straight excavations parallel to a utility, a test-hole should be hand dug approximately every 20’ to 25’ or as requested by the facility operator.

10. If you find an unmarked or unknown facility, and you can tell who the facility owner is, notify them. Otherwise, notify the Contact Center.
The Tolerance Zone

The Tolerance Zone is defined as:

Two (2) feet on either side of the designated center line of the facility if the diameter is not provided.

Or, two (2) feet from each outside edge if the diameter is provided.

For example:

Measuring The Tolerance Zone

The facility at left is marked as being 20-inches wide. So, 24” on each side, plus the width of the facility, gives us a Tolerance Zone of 68”.

The facility at right is marked with its location, but shows no width. So, 24” on each side, gives us a Tolerance Zone of 48”.

Example of the tolerance zone
Excavation After Verification

Damages and Breaks

When excavating close to an underground facility, it is a good practice to have a spotter assist and guide the machine operator.

After you have verified the location of a facility by hand digging, you must maintain a minimum clearance of 4” between the facility and any mechanized equipment.

If the excavation work requires significant spans of the facility to be exposed, support them to prevent sagging or collapse.

Take care not to damage the protective coating of a facility. If you do, leave the damaged facility exposed and immediately call the facility operator.

If a Facility is Contacted or Damaged

If you damage a facility you must immediately call the operator whose facilities have been damaged, even if you only scrape the protective coating. Left untreated this type of damage can lead to a catastrophic failure.

You should keep the emergency number of your local facility operators readily available (See page 24).

If you are in doubt about whose facility it is, call your Contact Center. They will transmit a notice to all facility owners in the area.

If You Break a Natural Gas, Petroleum or Propane Line,

Follow These Steps:

01. Stop work and evacuate the site.
02. Call 911. (NYS Law)
03. Call the appropriate facility operator.
04. Don’t do anything that could cause a spark.
05. Alert everyone on the premises.
06. Keep the public and traffic away.
07. Tape, rope or place cones around the area.
08. Stay upwind of blowing gas.
09. Do not try to fix a damaged pipe.
10. Do not try to extinguish a gas burning fire, unless there is a threat to life.
Leak Recognition & Response

A gas leak is usually recognized by smell, sight, or sound.

**Smell:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor is usually added so you’ll recognize it quickly.

**Sight:** You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

**Sound:** You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing, or whistling.

**What to do if you suspect a leak**

**Move** to a safe environment.

**Call** the pipeline operator (see page 19 & 24)—they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Provide the exact location, including cross streets. Let them know if sewer construction or digging activities are going on in the area.

**Do not** smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances.

**Do not** assume someone else will report the condition.

**Reporting Emergencies**

**Part 753 Emergency Requirements:** In the event of an emergency involving danger to life, health or property as a result of damage to an underground facility containing gas or liquid petroleum products or as a result of an electrical short or escape of gas or hazardous fluids, the excavator must:

01. Proceed to evacuate their employees and all other endangered persons from the immediate vicinity to the best of their ability and;

02. Immediately notify 911 and the operator of the affected facility of the exact location, nature of the emergency and of the underground facility which is affected.
Pipeline Purpose & Reliability

Natural gas, propane and petroleum pipelines quietly, reliably, and efficiently deliver a product for residential, commercial, and industrial use.

The pipeline industries work very closely with government agencies and stay abreast of new security methods and technologies to ensure the highest levels of security. Individual companies evaluate their security procedures on a regular basis and continually enhance security programs as needed.

Hazard Awareness & Prevention Measures

Like all forms of energy, natural gas, propane and petroleum must be handled properly. Despite an excellent safety record, a leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. The pipeline industry works diligently to ensure pipeline safety through a variety of measures including

• Coordination with Contact Centers
• Inspection programs
• Design and construction practices
• Workforce qualifications
• Industry safety practices and government oversight
• Pipeline markers and facility mapping
• Public education programs

Pipeline Locations

Since pipelines are underground, line markers are sometimes used to indicate their approximate location along their route. The markers display the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and the telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency. Markers only indicate the general location of a pipeline and cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position. The presence of markers does not negate the requirement to notify the Contact Center prior to excavation.
Suggestions & Reminders

DOs

• Follow NYS Law, report immediately to 911 and facility operator any damage to underground facilities resulting in escaping flammable, corrosive, explosive, toxic liquids, gas, or electrical short.

• Follow the special instructions from facility owners regarding their lines.

• Keep a minimum of 4” clearance between any safely exposed underground facility and any mechanized equipment.

• Protect and preserve the color-coded markings until those markings are no longer needed for a proper and safe excavation.

• Call for a re-mark if the markings are destroyed or removed before excavation is complete, and allow two working days to re-mark the site.

• Be sure that someone other than the equipment operator, for example the spotter, is there to look for any sign of an underground facility.

• Conduct the excavation near the underground facility carefully. Excavate by hand to be able to tell the exact location of the line and to prevent damage.

• Report any damage to the facility operator. For example, cracked conduit, gouges, dents or breaks to the coatings, cable sheathes and cathodic protection anodes or wiring that may pose problems now or in the future. Allow the underground facility operators time to make repairs.

Continued on next page
Suggestions & Reminders

DON’Ts

• Place a Location Request unless you are prepared to start on the stated commencement date or ten (10) working days thereafter.

• Assume a pipeline or cable runs straight, or is centered between permanent marker posts.

• Assume the depth of a utility. Never assume an underground facility is at the same depth throughout the entire route of an excavation.

• Excavate within the tolerance zone with mechanized equipment before verification.

• Phone in emergency locates that are not really emergencies (crews should be on site or in route).

• Work under anyone else’s location request.
Introducing Exactix

Dig Safely New York’s Online Location Request Submission Platform.

A new industry solution offering enhancements to the Location Request Submission process.

EASY

An industry solution offering enhancements to the Location Request submission process. It also gives you, the user, complete access to manage your excavation experience. From Location Request management, to streamlined Location Request entry and advanced mapping capabilities, Dig Safely New York designed this software with you in mind.

ACCURATE

This system is always maintained and updated with the latest information and mapping for your area. The Google-friendly platform helps you find the exact address of the area you’re marking out so you get the correct location every time.

INTEGRATED

Exactix has been integrated into the Dig Safely New York Learning Management Software, Coursettra. Launched in 2018, Dig Safely New York has been consistently working with 4iQ Solutions to customize, enrich, and supplement your educational experience. By integrating Coursettra with Exactix, 4iQ is allowing Dig Safely New York to offer another level of competency to maximize education in safe digging best practices, as well as Location Request creation.

Visit My.DigSafelyNewYork.com for all your online support needs!
Online Location Request

One system for all users

Exactix is for the professional excavator that will use the program frequently to request a mark-out for excavation jobs, or for jobs that occur at multiple addresses as well as the low-volume excavator and for individuals to use for their Do-it-yourself home projects.

Advantages of placing a Location Request online

Using Exactix allows you the freedom to create Location Requests online, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no training requirements or on the phone hold time. Our intuitive system will guide you through the Location Request process easier and faster.

- Free and easy to use.
- No waiting. Submit Location Requests on your time, anywhere you have Internet access.
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Google-friendly platform helps you easily find the exact address.
- Print out a copy of your Location Request for your records.
- Verbal transcription errors are eliminated.
- Manage all your location requests online.
My.DigSafelyNewYork.com

The only resource you need for access, information, tutorials, and support for Dig Safely New York’s online tools.

Dig Safely New York has teamed up with 4iQ solutions to bring you a comprehensive one-call platform for Location Request submission—Exactix, and a Learning Management System—Coursettra.

A new industry solution offering enhancements to the Location Request submission process. It also gives you, the user, complete access to manage your excavation experience. From Location Request management, to streamlined Location Request entry and advanced mapping capabilities, Dig Safely New York designed this software with you in mind.

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## Emergency Numbers

Please take the time to write down the numbers of emergency services and facility operators you may need in the field.

**Police:** ____________________________________________

**Fire Department:** ______________________________________

**Gas:** __________________________________________________

**Electric:** ________________________________________________

You can find your responses by logging into your Exactix account and view the Response Status tab on your dashboard. Or, you can visit [https://exactix.digsafelynewyork.com](https://exactix.digsafelynewyork.com) and click the link to view/confirm your utility responses. With this method, you will need your Location Request number and phone number that was used to place the Location Request.

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25
The Best Practices Excavation

Here are eleven (11) simple steps to a best practices excavation:

01. The excavator visits the site, and marks out every place he or she may be excavating with white paint, flags, or stakes.

02. The excavator fills out all the information about the excavation on a Contact Center Location Request Information Sheet, (see page 7), then places a Location Request with the Contact Center.

03. The Contact Center Damage Prevention Representative takes the information, and gives the excavator a Location Request reference number and a list of members (facility operators) notified. The excavator writes these down on the Location Request Information Sheet for later reference.

04. The excavator then notifies any nonmember facility operators (non-member facility operators are not notified by the Contact Center).

05. Each member facility operator either marks out their facilities at the work area, or determines the work area is clear, and then responds to the Automated Positive Response (APR) System.

06. The excavator verifies that they have received responses from all utilities through the Automated Positive Response (APR) System and takes photos of the markings for documentation.

07. The excavator begins work on the scheduled work date and time, if all the facility operators have responded, taking care to find and preserve any markings the locators have made.

Continued on next page
The Best Practices Excavation

08. Before beginning any excavation or demolition, the excavator identifies the tolerance zone and any place the work area crosses a gas or liquid petroleum line ("cross section areas"). When digging near a buried facility, the excavator observes the tolerance zone around that facility.

09. Before excavating or demolishing in a tolerance zone or any cross section areas, the excavator verifies the location of underground facilities by hand-dug test holes.

10. If exposing a facility, the excavator provides proper support and protection for it so the facility will not be damaged.

11. When the excavation is complete, the excavator provides proper backfill for any facilities having been exposed, and removes all utility markings.
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**Mark-Outs Example Calendar**
## APWA Uniform Color Codes
For Marking Underground Utility Lines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Proposed Excavation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>Temporary Survey Markings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit &amp; Lighting Cables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum &amp; Gaseous Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Communications, Alarm, Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Potable Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Reclaimed Water, Irrigation &amp; Slurry Lines, Radioactive Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Sewers &amp; Drain Lines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Am I required to become certified?

Are you an excavator working for a local government?

Yes

You will be required by law, to become a Certified Excavator. Please find more information below.

No

Are you a hired contractor, working for an excavator, who’s working for a local government?

Yes

No

Are you an excavator that works for an operator?

Yes

No

Are you a hired contractor, working for an operator?

Yes

It is a recommended best practice for those in digging related industries (landscaping, tent companies, stump grinding, independent contractors, and more) to become a Certified Excavator. Learn more at www.DigSafelyNewYork.com/CEP

No

See definitions on next page.

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**Certified Excavator FAQ**

**Am I Required by Law to be a Certified Excavator?**

Per Senate Bill S.6756 and Assembly Bill 9985, effective Saturday, May 4, 2019, excavators that work for a local government and their hired contractors, as well as excavators that work for an operator and their hired contractors, will be required to receive training and education from their local Contact Center.

**Per 16 NYCRR Part 753:**

**Excavator:** Any person who is engaged in a trade or business which includes the carrying out of excavation or demolition; provided, however, that an individual employed by an excavator and having no supervisory authority other than the routine direction of employees over an excavation or demolition, shall not be deemed an excavator for the purpose of this Part. The act of any employee or agent of any excavator acting within the scope of his or her official duties or employment shall be deemed to be the act of such excavator.

**Operator:** Any person who operates an underground facility to furnish any of the following services or materials: electricity, gases, steam, liquid petroleum products, telephone or telegraph communications, cable television, sewage removal, traffic control systems, or water.

**Local governing body:** A town, village or city outside the city of New York or a county within the city of New York.

**Becoming a Certified Excavator**

Under Senate Bill S.6756 and Assembly Bill 9985, the Dig Safely New York Certified Excavator program in Safe Digging Best Practices constitutes as adequate training. The Dig Safely New York Certified Excavator Program in Safe Digging Best Practices is an interactive course that may be taken in-person or online, to fit your scheduling needs.

By using experience and actual challenges faced in the field, the course is designed to assist professionals with how to proceed safely and correctly, in spite of the obstacles.

**Please contact your local Field Representative with questions.**
Call 811 before you dig
For Safety. For Family. For Community.
www.DigSafelyNewYork.com