

MOCS MEMBER UTILITIES

underground news

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SUMMER 2021

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

City Utilities (CU) is a Community-Owned Municipal Utilities serving the Springfield area, providing electric, gas, water, and fiber to customers. CU is focused on damage prevention. They work with the excavating community and locators to make sure projects are successful and safe. CU is focused on personal relationships with all stakeholders. They provide guidance and training to locators and equipment operators, and work closely with crews in the field.

CU's Damage Prevention team investigates each damage with a focus on preventing it from happening again. They have established an Excavation Damages Task Force that reviews damages and assigns follow-up tasks to each area of the Company (Engineering, Construction, Communications, Safety, etc.). Their mindset is that damage prevention is not just a department. It has to be everyone's focus in order to be successful.

In addition to their daily damage prevention efforts, CU has been instrumental in hosting the Damage Prevention Summit and International Locate Rodeo. CU has provided staff, resources, and a number of other things to help promote safe excavation not only at the local level, but to stakeholders from multiple states. Missouri One Call applauds CU's commitment to damage prevention and hopes to see their successes duplicated statewide.



MARKING STANDARDS



As of 2015, Missouri law requires all utilities with underground facilities to mark the approximate location of underground lines in accordance with the CGA Best Practices marking standards. For quite some time, utilities have followed the APWA color code, marking gas lines in yellow, electric lines red, water lines blue, sewer lines green, and telecommunication and CATV lines in orange. But outside of the color code, there was rarely a universal acceptance of a specific type of marking for specific utility designations. For this reason, the revisions to the law several years ago sought to codify that utilities should mark their lines in a consistent and universal way to allow excavators to identify what the markings meant no matter where they excavated in the state.

Since the adoption of these marking standards, certain elements are being used with regularity while others have been used only sparingly. It is important to note that ALL elements are required to be used in order to be compliant with Missouri law. All utilities are required to comply regardless if locators are employees or contract locators.

A summary of the standards is as follows:

Company Identifier – Use an abbreviation or other identifier to convey ownership of the marks.

Distance Between Marks – Utilities must ensure that the marks are between 4' to 50' apart as can be reasonably seen based upon the terrain.

Size & Type of Material – The size of the pipe/utility and what kind of material it is should be designated on site at least at the ends of the locate.

Indication of Multiple Lines/Conduit – If multiple lines are present, utilities must designate how many lines in addition to the size and type of material.

Single Facility – Utilities must mark the centerline of the facility in addition to the size and type.

Oversized Facility – In facilities larger than 6", utilities are encouraged to mark a diamond with two lines on the outside edges to depict the edges of the utility.

Corridor – If there are multiple facilities of the same type in a corridor where the total number is unknown, utilities must designate the corridor with the abbreviation of CDR along with the approximate size (ex. 12" CDR).

Bends – Any change in direction should be noted with a painted arc.

Laterals – Laterals are designated with a sideways "T" with an arrow indicating a continuation of the line along with the size and type of line if known.

Vaults – Designated by the outside corners being marked with arrows pointing inward towards the access.

Terminations or Dead Ends – Marked by a half circle at the end of a marked line.

Clear/No Conflict – If a utility is listed on the locate request and there are no underground facilities present, mark "clear" or "ok" on the site.

Splice or Connection Points – If a utility is listed on the locate request and there are no underground facilities present, the utility must mark "clear" or "ok" on the site.

Continuation – If underground facilities continue past the point of the excavation area, utilities should note the continuation of the facility by marking the end of the line with an arrow pointing in the direction of the line.

For a more thorough description of the marking standards and the legal obligation of utilities to use these standards, please visit [MCGA_Marking_Standards.pdf](#) ([mo1call.com](#)).

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Tight Spaces, Big Trouble: Confined Space Safety

By Mark A. Woodward - Sr. Safety and Risk Trainer
Missouri Employers Mutual

Confined space incidents can lead to employee injury or death. They're large and small, take many shapes, and each space presents unique hazards. All confined spaces contain some form of hazard.

Examples of confined spaces in utilities include storage tanks, sewers, lift stations, and vaults and truck-mounted tanks.

Why are confined spaces dangerous?

- Poor air quality can lead to asphyxiation.
- Materials or liquids can engulf entrants.
- Equipment can trap entrants.
- Entrants can sustain traumatic falls.

Confined spaces in construction (29 CFR Part 1926) and general industry (29 CFR Part 1910) are regulated by OSHA safety standards. Whether you fall under OSHA's jurisdiction or not, proper entry and work within confined spaces must be paramount. See more at www.osha.gov.

Survivability in confined space emergencies is low. Rescuing trapped victims is time consuming and difficult. A lack of training can result in failed rescue attempts that lead to disaster. 66% of confined space fatalities are of the would-be rescuer!

Utilities and construction crews must:

- Identify and address hazards in confined spaces that are entered by crews.
- Provide training to those that work in and around confined spaces.
- Provide rescue equipment and training.
- Require pre-entry safety permits that are completed correctly.
- Provide ventilation and air monitoring equipment that is used correctly.

Find confined space safety quick cards, fact sheets, and compliance assistance documents free of charge at www.osha.gov/publications.

Safety FIRST! Always follow your company's confined space rules. Work safely in all confined spaces! Complete the permits, perform jobsite safety meetings, test the air, ventilate the space, and be prepared in case rescue may be needed!

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The MOCS truck has been outfitted with a variety of items to help MOCS Damage Prevention Managers conduct on-site safety meetings with contractors, utilities, and the general public all throughout the state. It's also available for any parades or public events that you are hosting in your area if you'd like to add a safety feature to your local event.

The truck will be on the road and looking for job sites to visit. If you'd like to schedule a stop, reach out to us and let us know. We may even bring you lunch.

To schedule a time, please email Charlie Peel at charliep@mo1call.com or Nick Rasa at nickr@mo1call.com.

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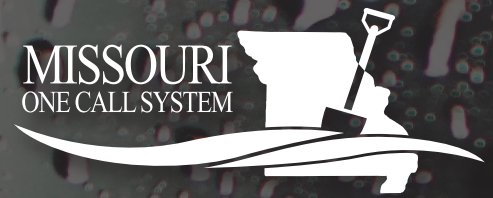
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