

SAFETY FOR CONTRACTORS

Proper planning

Staying safe before you break ground

They might be a lot to think about and remember, but following these excavation and boring guidelines can help protect you and your crew on the job site.

1. Follow state law and call the Arizona Blue Stake center at least two working days before you dig.
2. If your job is not marked (the underground facilities located and marked by the facility owner or operator), do not dig.
3. Excavate in a careful, prudent manner, and manually expose with hand tools the exact location of the underground facilities once within 24 inches of the location marks.
4. Immediately notify the facility owner of any obvious damage. Do not attempt any inspection, repair or manipulation of the electric cable(s) you believe may have been damaged. Let the utility make that determination for you.
5. Do not assume that when you have uncovered one cable you have uncovered all of them.
6. Do not assume that all facilities are at a specific and consistent depth, and that the grade has not changed since installation.
7. Do not assume a cable is abandoned and not energized.
8. Do not concentrate your efforts solely on digging activities and risk forgetting that overhead power lines may be in the area that require separation at the minimum approach distances.
9. Do not assume a false sense of security simply because previous contacts with electrical utilities did not result in injury.
10. Do not assume that you know where underground utilities are located because you worked in the area before.
11. Do not assume there are no underground utilities simply because the work area is largely remote.
12. Use manual digging methods when digging closer than two feet of any electric utility pad-mounted equipment or power pole.