



City of Oceanside
Engineering Inspection
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UNDERGROUND MARKOUT REQUIREMENTS AB73 HIGHLIGHTS

- Digging on private property as well as public property by a contractor now requires notification of Underground Service Alert.
- Dig Alert numbers are valid for 14 calendar days; and must be revalidated if excavation is to continue beyond the 14-day period.
- Using white paint, the excavator must plainly mark where he plans to dig or supply exact location information to USA.
- A USA member (the owner of subsurface installations) must locate and mark the lines clearly, using the appropriate color. During the course of the job, if the original markings are no longer visible, the excavator is to re-contact USA. The member will then be informed that he is requested to re-locate and remark the lines within two working days.
- The excavator must determine the exact location of marked underground facilities by using hand tools - before any power equipment is to be used.
- Owners (of subsurface installations) and excavators are both subject to fines of up to \$10,000 for **negligently** violating the new law.
- Any owner or excavator who **knowingly** and **willfully** violates any of the law's provisions is subject to fines of up to \$50,000.
- Action against a violator may be brought by the local (city, county, etc.) or state agency that issued the permit to excavate as well as the Attorney General and the district attorney.
- If an excavator does not comply by calling USA for Dig Alert number or does not properly expose the underground lines before using power equipment, the excavator is liable for any damage resulting from excavation.
- Owners of underground lines who are not members of Underground Service Alert forfeit their right to recover damages to their underground facilities by excavators.
- The law does not apply to property owners who perform excavation work that does not require a permit.