

TOOLBOX TALKS

Pre-excavation Site Inspection

Company Name _____

Date _____

Presenter Name _____

Job Site/Project _____

A safe and successful excavation project begins before you make the call to Dig Safe. A quick inspection of your job site before and after locator marks have been laid can help you identify which may present difficulty and help you better understand the information contained in your Dig Safe ticket and the marks placed by the utility locator.

- Before you call Dig Safe examine your jobsite for evidence of underground utilities and areas which might present difficulty once excavation begins.
- Look for pedestals, poles, vault covers, transformers, meters, utility stakes, or old locator marks. Any of these indicate underground utilities may be present; based on your inspection, make a list of potential underground utilities. **Don't** rely on these indicators as utility markers, **make the call!**
- Examine the site for features or obstacles which may present a challenge to excavating such as tree roots, bedrock, or frozen ground. Note the soil type, loose sandy soil is likely to shift, and exposed facilities may require extra support or protection to avoid separation or breakage.
- After utility locator marks have been laid re-examine your jobsite. Are all utilities listed on the ticket marked? If not, call Dig Safe for a remark before you start digging.
- Document locator marks with photographs or a brief sketch. This protects you and your company in the event damage occurs.
- Note any areas where your excavation will cross or parallel located utilities within 18". Soft excavation techniques such as hand digging or vacuum excavation are recommended within the tolerance zone. If directional drilling or boring, or powered or mechanized equipment is to be used to cross or parallel marked facilities you must expose these facilities and verify their depth.
- Remember 10 minutes spent inspecting your site can save you a day in lost work time if a damage occurs.

Attendees
