

# Marking Guidelines

## FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

### **ATTENTION**

This guide does not include 2021 modifications regarding damage Prevention laws for both Maryland, Title 12 and DC, Title 34

### **ATENCIÓN**

Esta guía no incluye las modificaciones con respecto a las leyes de prevención de daños del año 2021 para Maryland, Título 12 y DC, Título 34

These links will provide information on the new laws;  
[www.missutility.net](http://www.missutility.net) [missutility.net] for both MD and DC Law information  
[www.mddpa.org](http://www.mddpa.org) [mddpa.org] for MD law information

Before you dig. Every dig. **MISS UTILITY** It's the law.



## Foreword

Damage to underground facilities can have far-reaching consequences, from serious injury and environmental damage to the loss of vital services we depend upon every day. Preventing damage to these facilities is a responsibility shared by all stakeholders and is accomplished through various damage prevention measures.

At the heart of any damage prevention program is the exchange of accurate and consistent information between excavators and operators of underground facilities. Locating and marking underground facilities is the way operators show the approximate horizontal location of their facilities in advance of an excavation. This information helps the excavators to safely excavate around underground facilities.

In an effort to enhance the current marking practices and encourage the use of uniform marking symbols across Maryland and Washington, D.C., stakeholder representatives have agreed on a set of marking best practices that are found in this booklet. All participants in this effort are to be complimented on their dedication and contributions in devising these best practices. Operators and their locators are strongly encouraged to follow these best practices to mark their facilities.

*The pictures and illustrations in this booklet are for example only and do not reflect all the markings that may be encountered in the field. Contractors are encouraged to contact the locate company and/or utility owner if they encounter any unfamiliar markings and have questions concerning their meaning. Information in this booklet is subject to change without notice. The purpose of this manual is for damage prevention education and should not be used as a legal document.*

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## Marker Types

The marker types that are most suitable to the



Example of structure, standard marks

### End of locate request

TV Ped.	▲	TV	→
El Trans.	■	E	→
Tel Ped.	●	TEL	→

Example of facilities continuing past locate point

### When and Where Flags Can Be Used

- Areas without fixed vegetation (dirt-only lots, dirt roads, etc.)
- When inclement weather exists or is anticipated
- Heavy construction/high-traffic construction sites
- Right of ways with tall vegetation
- Flowerbeds or other landscaped areas
- In conjunction with paint

Discretion shall be utilized when using flags as it relates to public safety (e.g., playgrounds, schools, residential areas, etc.).

Example of TV pedestal, coax cable



## Facility Markings

- The American Public Works Association's



*Example of structure, standard marks, corridor*

### Single Facility Markings Should Be

- 2 in.-4 in. wide
- 6 in.-18 in. long
- 2 ft.-12 ft. distance between markings,  
all site specific

### Dots

Dots should be used on sidewalks, driveways,



PRV

Where practical, the utility locator may indicate

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the existence of private utilities by the label:

## Descriptions



*Example of conduits, underground structure*

in the confines of the same trench that are encased or contained inside an external structure other than its manufactured sheathing or coating. This should exclude direct-buried fiber optics. Example:

## Corridor Marks

Corridor marks represent any structure that has a diameter that is greater than 4" and shall be used when identifying any multiple cabled or pipe facilities in the confines of the



same trench  
that are not  
encased or  
contained  
inside an  
Example of structure,  
standard marks,  
inside can  
corridor marks,  
labeling, pipe size

external structure other than its manufactured sheathing or coating. This should include direct-buried fiber optics.

Typical pipe sizes below 6" [1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 3/4", 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", 1 3/4", 2", 2 1/4", 3", 4"] shall be identified by a single marking.

● The dot will go where the locator is receiving the center strongest signal strength

Pipes 6", 8", 10", 12", 16", 18", 20", 22", 24", 30", 40", 42", 48" and above shall be identified by a designated corridor pipe marking, see



Figure 1-1  
Example of fiber labeling:

FO ●

When known, the size, structure, fiber material type and owner of

facility shall be indicated at the beginning and at the end of the locate request area and site specific in between.

## Perimeter Markings of Structures/ Hand Dig Zone

Visual facility structures that are on or beneath the surface include, but are not limited to,



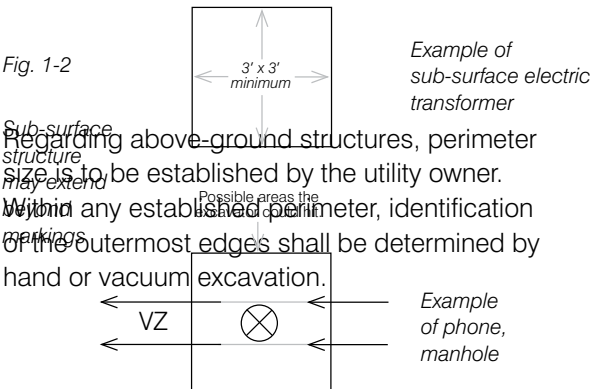
Example of cable underground tanks, poles, pedestals, gas and electric structures, vaults, water and sewer

facilities, etc.

While working in the proximity of an identified underground structure, it is the responsibility of the excavator to positively identify the outermost



Example of electric transformer, hand dig zone, corridor, lateral







*Example of offsets*

### **Offsets**

In an area where marks may be destroyed (e.g., high-traffic areas, gravel areas, dirt areas, etc.), or where surface conditions are such that the placement of marks directly over the utility line is not possible, offset markings shall be used. The offset marks should be placed on a permanent surface, which is not likely to be destroyed.



*Fig. 1-3*

When possible, offset marks should be used in conjunction with marks placed in accordance with the APWA's color codes. Offset marks shall

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include an arrow, pointing in the direction of the utility line, with the distance in feet (measured with an appropriate instrument) to the location of the



*Example of standard marks, lateral*

### **Lateral Utilities and Utilities that Change Direction**

When utilities change direction, or where lateral lines exist, they will be clearly located, and the locate marks will be closer in proximity to identify the change. This will include intersecting facilities, facilities changing direction, facility ends and lateral lines.



*Example of white lining*

### **White Lining**

White lining is strongly recommended for proposed excavations. When utilizing white lining, a clear footage definition of radius (in feet) around the white paint markings should be established in the ticket instructions for utility markings involving: single-point excavations,

such as signs, poles, pole bases, anchors, drilling, blasting, etc.; or continuous excavation, such as trenching, plowing, boring, grading, etc.

When white lining is not practical, other means of area of excavation descriptions can be used, such as site meetings, document transfers, etc.

## Definitions

### Abbreviations

<b>CI</b>	Cast Iron
<b>CPR</b>	Copper
<b>DI</b>	Ductile Iron
<b>PL</b>	Plastic
<b>PVC</b>	Polyvinyl Chloride
<b>RFC</b>	Reinforced Concrete
<b>SCC</b>	Steel Cylinder Concrete
<b>STL</b>	Steel
<b>TC</b>	Terracotta
<b>TR</b>	Transite (Asbestos)
<b>WRP/WS</b>	Wrapped Steel
<b>PCCP</b>	Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe
<b>KD</b>	Korduct
<b>FG</b>	Fiberglass
<b>GALV</b>	Galvanized Steel
<b>LP</b>	Low Pressure

**MP** Medium Pressure

**HP** High Pressure

Company Name	District Code	Status	Date	Time
ALLEGHENY PWR/ UTILITIES	PTE02	2	20080129	09:33:12
<b>TRANS</b>	<b>Transmission Line</b>			
AT&T TRANSMISSION	ATM01	1	20080129	06:50:33
<b>Electric Label Definitions</b>			20080128	21:20:29
COMPANY OF MONT - UTILITQUEST	Primary	2	20080129	09:33:12

**SEC** Secondary

**S/L** Street Lights

**1/0**

**#2 cables**

**350s**

**500s**

**750s**

**1,000s**

**69KV** or >69,000 volts

**110/115KV** or > 110,000 volts

*(Listed in order of power strength)*

## Sample Miss Utility Ticket Check Status

### Code Definition

- 1 Clear/No Conflict
- 2 Marked
- 3 24-hour delay
- 4 48-hour delay
- 5 Not Complete/In Progress:  
Locator has spoken to excavator  
and both agreed to this message
- 6 Locate Discrepancy
- 7 Not Complete/In Progress: Dispute
- 8 Utility Locator has not yet responded
- 9 Marked up to privately owned utility

- 10/A** Incorrect address information;  
Please call Miss Utility to reschedule

## **Local Damage Prevention Committees**

Local Damage Prevention Committees are groups of stakeholders who are concerned about preventing damage to underground utilities.

By becoming an active member, you will have the opportunity to discuss, in an informal setting, your concerns and ideas related to preventing damage to underground utility lines, and become part of a local and statewide network of stakeholders through which important damage prevention information is communicated quickly and effectively. In addition, your local damage prevention committee promotes partnerships. Developing partnerships with other stakeholders can result in open communication, problem solving and avoiding conflicts. There is no cost to become a member.

Local damage prevention committees meet on a regular basis in the following two geographic areas of Maryland/D.C.:

### **Maryland/D.C.**

Miss Utility  
7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100  
Hanover, MD 21076  
[missutility.net/maryland](http://missutility.net/maryland)

### **Eastern Shore (Delmarva)**

Utilities Service Protection Services

## APWA Uniform Color Code for Marking Underground Utility Lines

-  **RED**—Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
-  **YELLOW**—Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
-  **ORANGE**—Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
-  **BLUE**—Potable Water
-  **GREEN**—Sewers and Drain Lines
-  **PURPLE**—Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
-  **PINK**—Temporary Survey Markings
-  **WHITE**—Proposed Excavation





**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**Maryland/D.C.  
1.800.257.7777**

**Eastern Shore (Delmarva)  
1.800.441.8355**

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**missutility.net**