

# Mississippi 811 Safe Digging Tips

Mississippi 811 wants to help you have a safe, successful project and has developed the following safety tips to help.

**After you submitted your locate request to us, Mississippi 811 (MS811) notified the underground facility operators listed on your ticket.**

- MS811 does not mark any underground facilities. We take the information from you & transmit it to the utility/facility operators.
- By placing white paint or flags to mark the location of your proposed excavation, you will be saving time & conveying your project accurately to the underground facility locators.
- You should notify us of any utility companies that you know or suspect to be present within your proposed excavation site and are not listed on your locate request. They may be utilities that are not members of MS811 and therefore are not in compliance with state law, or they may be members who have not updated their database with MS811. You should also check any governmental and/or Railroad permit offices that may require a permit for your project.
- If you hired someone to do the excavation, give them your locate request number & have them call 811 to have the ticket put into their name to be compliant with the law.
- Wait the allotted 2 working day time frame for the facility owners/operators to complete the markings. For unlocatable lines, the utility companies have an additional 2 working days (not exceeding 4 working days) to complete the markings once they have notified you of such.
- Upon waiting 2 working days & no markings are on site, call 811 to give the locators 4 hours to respond to your 2<sup>nd</sup> request.
- Respect the markings. If your excavation will take place near the Tolerance Zone (within 18 inches of the markings) use non-intrusive methods to safely expose down to the utility line or depth of your excavation.
- Should you nick, scrap or damage underground utilities, do not cover them back up or try to repair them yourself. Contact the utility owner and then call 811 to resubmit the locate request if excavation is not complete.
  - If unreported and re-buried, the underground lines can corrode and explode years later without warning. Repercussions can be serious. If a damaged gas main explodes, an entire neighborhood can be destroyed – with possible loss of life and extensive property damage.
- If a damage occurs while excavating and gas or hazardous liquid is escaping, clear the area, contact 911 & then notify MS811 to resubmit your locate request for the damage.
- Most utility companies will only mark up to their meter or the property line if there is no meter. Any private lines are the responsibility of the homeowner to locate.
- If your utilities are not marked properly or in a timely manner or to report any violation of the MS excavation law, you can go the MS811 webpage ([www.ms811.org](http://www.ms811.org)), click on the AVR button & enter an Alleged Violation Report.
- Should the markings become destroyed for any reason, contact the MS811 Call Center to submit a Remark request.
- Keep your locate request number validated until the work is complete.