

2025 CHANGES TO THE LAWS IN YOUR STATE

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE PREVENTION LAWS

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As states start to form various types of enforcement for their damage prevention laws, recognizing changes to these laws are becoming a little more complicated. Due to this, it is recommended that you stay involved with your state one call, review state codes, administrative codes, enforcement authority rule making decisions, state resolutions, and (of course) "Changes to the Laws in Your State" article that is produced yearly.

Arkansas

SB401 ACT 448 Passed 04/07/2025 Modifies notification requirements to include exemption for "tools only manipulated by human power to a depth of not greater than twelve inches (12") within twelve inches (12") of the operator's terminal for other purposes"

SB492 ACT 699 Passed 04/18/2025 This bill puts in place a process for utility relocation for Department of Transportation facility or right of way projects. It includes protocols, procedures, timelines and civil penalties for non-compliance.

HB1735 ACT 813 Passed 04/17/2025 Puts in place an escalating penalty structure for operators of underground facilities that do not participate in membership of the One Call Center. Note: operators can apply for a waiver under circumstances through the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

<https://www.ar811.org/>
<https://arkansasag.gov/divisions/public-protection/file-an-811-complaint/>
<https://apsc.arkansas.gov/utilities/pipeline-safety/>

California

SB778 Passed 09/22/2024; Effective 01/01/2025: Damage prevention law changes are as follows: **(a)** Modifies excavation notification procedures in the event an excavation ticket expires., **(b)** Requires considerations when charging fees for locating obligations., **(c)** Revises requirements for the use of vacuum excavation equipment., **(d)** Revises damage notification requirements for excavators., **(e)** Revises some eligibility requirements to serve on the Californian Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board., and **(f)** If an excavator requests additional locate information to determine the exact location; the utility operator shall provide this information within one working day if known.

Pending Policies Under the California Underground Safety Board

Docket No:#2025-07-PC 07/28/2025: California Underground Safety Board Releasing Draft Standard Safety Practices for Potholing

Docket No: 2025-07-01-PC 07/21/2025: California Underground Safety Board Releasing Draft Standard Safety Practices for Geographic Information Systems Regulatory Language

<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/undergroundssafetyboard/>
<https://www.usanorth811.org/>
<https://digalert.org/>

Colorado

Underground Damage Prevention Safety Commission Regulations 7 C.C.R. 1101-18

Adopted 11/08/2024; Effective 01/01/2025. Significant updates to this regulation are as follows: **(a)** Adds dredging and other underwater earth moving to the definition of excavation., **(b)** Defines home rule entity., **(c)** Establishes and defines a review committee as "A group of 3-5 members of the Underground Damage Prevention Safety Commission appointed to review a complaint of an alleged violation of the Act.", **(d)** Empowers the Review Committee to determine if a complaint is frivolous., **(e)** Defines response required of the term "by date"., **(f)** Specifies that a complaint form must be complete prior to the form being processed and receiving a hearing schedule., **(g)** Requests for postponement of hearings may be requested until the response "required by date"., **(h)** Adds procedures and document protocols for hearings., **(i)** Empowers the Safety Commission to establish enforceable standards for underground facility marking., and **(j)** Establishes a Damage Prevention fund and a Safety Commission Fund.

<http://colorado811.org/>
<https://ops.colorado.gov/UDPSafetyCommission>

Delaware

Final Rulemaking- Delaware Register 29DE Reg 548 12/01/2025

Clarifies and supplements the existing statute as follows: **(a)** Operators of underground pipeline facilities shall provide notice of damage from excavation as soon as practicable., **(b)** Formalization of reporting procedures for excavators., **(c)** Standardizes how the Public Service Commission will enforce reporting and damage prevention obligations.

<https://depdc.delaware.gov/>
<https://delmarva811.com/>

Florida

Special Notes:

Best Practice Update published 11/02/2025. Understanding ticket rules: Locate ticket can cover no more than one square mile of undeveloped land. Guidance about describing ticket areas and project scope.

Best Practice Update published 12/02/2025. Guidance about confirming marks, maintaining positive responses and continuing ticket best practices.

Best Practice Update published 01/08/2026. New Practices for using 3F positive response codes.

<https://sunshine811.com/>

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Illinois

HB 5546 Passed 07/01/2024 Effective 01/01/2025: Illinois made extensive changes to their damage prevention law. First, there are substantial additions and modifications of the definitions within the new law. Some highlights to these are as follows: **(a)** Damages (Contact or dislocation of a facility during excavation that necessitates repair by the underground utility facility owner due to any partial or complete destruction of the facility, including, but not limited to, the protective coating, tracer wire, lateral support, cathodic protection, or housing for the line or device of the facility.), **(b)** Day ("Means any day, beginning at 12:00 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m. and does not include holidays recognized by JULIE, Saturdays, Sundays, and the day of the actual notice.), **(c)** Emergency notification request (means a request involving a condition (1) that constitutes an imminent danger to life, health, or property or a utility service outage (2) and that requires repair or action before the expiration of 2 days.), **(d)** Excavation (any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, power equipment or explosives, and includes, without limitation, grading, trenching, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, boring, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing, saw cutting or roadway surface milling when penetrating into the base or subbase of a paved surface, and driving)., and **(e)** Adds several exclusions to the definition of excavation but notably adds this to the exclusions "(2) An exclusion to this Section in no way prohibits a request from being made for the marking of facilities. (3) Any exception to excavation contained within this Section is not intended to remove liability that may be imposed against an individual or entity because of damage caused to a facility.

Secondly, HB 5546 modified and introduced a great deal of procedural details to the damage prevention law as follows: **(a)** Specific excavation requirements that allows the facility owner to request to be on site during excavation near their facility. The excavator must comply with this request; however, the facility owner may not interfere with the excavation schedule., **(b)** Positive response requirements., **(c)** Obligations for design tickets., **(d)** Joint meet ticket obligations for excavators and facility owners., **(e)** Emergency ticket requirements and stakeholder obligations surrounding the emergency excavation., **(f)** Requires the excavator to notify the one call center of an exposed unmarked facility., **(g)** Marking requirements for submerged facilities., **(h)** Pre-marking requirements., **(i)** Allows the facility owner to request an additional two days to complete marking obligations under particular circumstances, **(j)** Service laterals on or after 01/01/2026 shall be locatable., and **(k)** Provides enforcement procedural timelines for the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Once again, Illinois has undergone extensive changes to their damage prevention law. Prior to excavation, it is highly recommended to refer to the state one call center website for education and additional training at the website below.
<https://www.illinois1call.com/>

Indiana

HB1122 Passed 03/11/2024; Effective 01/01/2025: This bill inserts some key points from IURC RM #22-03 (above) into code and builds upon this foundation as follows: **(a)** Clarification of tolerance zone to include the width of the underground facilities plus (2) feet; above, below, and in a full radius surrounding all outer limits of both the underground and aboveground facilities of the physical plant., **(b)** Working day hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. et; prevailing time of Indianapolis, Indiana., **(c)** A provision that allows an excavator to start work prior to the two full working days if all affected operators

have appropriately responded through the positive response., **(d)** An excavation notice expires at 11:59 p.m. prevailing time (20) days after the date the notice is received by the association., **(e)** Underground utility operator will provide positive response., and **(f)** Excavator will provide an affirmative response to the one call that they have received positive response from all affected operators that were notified.

<https://indiana811.org/>

Louisiana

HB397 Passed 05/15/2024; Effective 01/01/2025: This bill modifies Louisiana Damage Prevention law by providing new definitions for large project excavation/demolition, marine excavator, and routine excavation/demolition. Further, the bill adds guidance to excavators and utility operators during large project excavations.

HB392 Passed 06/08/2025 Effective Mandatory 08/01/2025. This bill expands the definition of large project excavation to include timeline considerations, requires mandatory annual excavator training, **determines violation if the excavator fails to commence work within one hundred twenty hours of the mark-by-time, not counting weekends and holidays with limited exemptions.**

<https://www.louisiana811.com/>

Minnesota

HB3436 Passed 05/15/2024

Effective 01/01/2026: Operators that provide services to greater than 10,000 customers must use geospatial location information/equivalent technology to develop as-built drawings of newly installed or newly abandoned facilities if exposed in the excavation area. Other notable changes effective in 2026 are: **(a)** an excavator may provide electronic markings as an alternative to the physical markings if they provide the same level of information., **(b)** A utility operator may require that the excavator provide physical markings following submission of electronic marking.

Effective 01/01/2027: Operators that provide services to fewer than 10,000 customers must use geospatial location information/equivalent technology to develop as-built drawings of newly installed or newly abandoned facilities if exposed in the excavation area.

<https://www.gopherstateonecall.org/>

Mississippi

HB1191 Passed 03/12/2025; Effective 07/01/2025: For a second year in a row; Mississippi has made substantial changes to their damage prevention law as follows: **(a)** Added definitions for electronic premarking, large project excavation, marine exclusion zone, preconstruction meeting, preconstruction meeting ticket, submerged excavation, submerged facility, tolerance zone and web portal., **(b)** Extends ticket life from fourteen days to twenty days., **(c)** Allows for electronic white lining., **(d)** Clarifies that information on the notification ticket supersedes white lining., **(e)** Defines exemptions to white lining obligations., **(f)** Requirement for preservation of markings and notification obligation for remark if marks are destroyed., **(g)** Exemption of notification requirement for excavation due to electric

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power regeneration activities under particular circumstances., (h) Clarifies requirements for excavation activities within the tolerance zone., (i) Procedures and obligations when conducting submerged excavation for excavators and utility owners., (j) Provides underground facility locating timelines for standard excavation, submerged excavation, emergency excavation and impending emergency excavation (with limited exceptions)., (k) Excavators are required prior to excavation and during excavation to review jobsite for facility marks or evidence of unmarked facilities., (l) During an emergency excavation notification; excavator shall provide name of person on site with knowledge of emergency.

<https://www.ms811.org/>

Missouri

SB 133 Passed 07/14/2025: Missouri has made several significant changes to their underground damage prevention law as follows: (a) Several added definitions for best practices (special note: Common Ground Alliance best practices are meant to supplement Missouri law not supersede), careful and prudent, electronic white lining, detectable underground location device, locator strip, locator wire, reasonable care, and start date of work., (b) Twenty-one day ticket life., (c) With limited exemption, all facilities installed after 8/28/2025 shall be locatable., (d) Clarification of Board of Directors make up and election process., (e) Approved use of electronic white lining., (f) Refined design request obligations to eliminate the “no more than ten day” requirement., and (g) Damage liability clarifications.

<https://missouri-811.org/>

North Carolina

HB247 Passed 06/26/2025; Effective 10/01/2025 This bill includes several changes and clarifications as follows: (a) Provides new definition for soft dig technologies that provides supplementation to nonmechanized equipment definition., (b) Clarifies the “horizontal measurement for tolerance zone.”, (c) Painted marks shall be at such a length to not be misinterpreted as a dot., (d) Any changes to marking requirements must be made by written agreement., (e) Time requirements for emergency and unmarked facility locates (3 hours)., (f) Excavation notifications changed to “no less than three working days prior to commencement” for non subaqueous facilities and “No less than ten to twenty working days prior to commencement” for subaqueous facilities., (g) Ticket life expanded to twenty-eight days after work start date., (f) Locates should be limited to an area that an excavator reasonably believes can be completed within twenty-eight days and not include completed construction areas., (g) Modified notification exemptions to activities with some exceptions., (h) Liability language when operator fails to fulfil obligations., (g) Claims and consequential damages shall be adjudicated in North Carolina court systems., (h) Provides enhanced operating guidelines for Underground Prevention Review Board in regards to quorums, reappointments, attendance, and replacement., (i) Board reconsideration process., and (j) Clarified role of the Public Utilities Commission.

<https://nc811.org/>

North Dakota

HB1153 Passed 03/25/2025-This bill modifies activities from being defined as excavation under the following circumstances: (a) “Normal

maintenance of paved roads and streets if the maintenance does not extend deeper than the depth of the existing pavement.”, (b) “Normal surface maintenance of gravel roads and streets if the maintenance does not involve the road ditch.”

<https://ndonecall.com/>

New York

A06768 Passed 11/12/2025 Effective 05/11/2026 Requires any entity that leases construction equipment to provide education to the lessee of rented equipment regarding their responsibilities under state law to protect underground facilities.

<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-york/pbs/article-6/119-b/>

<https://udign.org/>

<https://newyork-811.com/>

Oklahoma

HB1666 Approved 05/19/2025 Effective 11/01/2025 This bill modified “any grading or maintenance of county roads that does not change either the existing road grade or ditch flow line” from being defined as excavation.

<https://okie811.org/>

Oregon

OAR 952-001-0005 Approved 01/16/2025 Filed 02/28/2025—Created to identify the specific organizations that serve as board recruitment partners that are consulted to select members for the OUNC Board.

OAR 952-001-0010 (13) Approved 01/16/2025 Filed 02/28/2025 — Amends definition of “non-invasive methods” to enhance more specifically include hand digging, air cutting, vacuum excavation and hydro vacuum excavation.

OAR 952-001-0050 (2) Approved 01/16/2025 Filed 02/28/2025— Amends to exempt working within a facility enclosure (such as meter boxes and vaults) if not digging beneath the base of the structure

OAR 952-001-0010 (23) Approved 07/2025 Effective 01/01/2026 Filed 02/28/2025— this amendment adjusts the definition of ticket life from **45 days to 30 days**.

Temporary Rule change 07/2025 Address recommendations from the Oregon Public Utility Commission ruling (Order 25-093) on complaint NC-405 regarding sewer laterals. Adds a definition of “control over” to OAR 952-001-0010 to align with chapter 952, the Public Utility Commission, and Common Ground Alliance Best Practices 21.0 and recommendations. This ensures operators with expertise handle locates and OUNC subscription for their respective underground facilities. Temporary rule changes take effect right away, but with an expiration date. This change is intended to bridge the gap to a more permanent solution by early 2026.

<https://sos.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

<https://digsafelyoregon.com/>

South Carolina

H3571 Passed 05/27/2025- Act No. 65 Effective 05/22/2026 South Carolina made substantial changes as follows: (a) Added new

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definitions for large project, large project facility agreement, notice, commencement date, private facility, pre-marking, project initiator, and soft digging., (b) More enhanced definition of excavation to include activities, types of excavation, and what is considered exempt from the definition of excavation., (c) Simplifies that all operators must become members of the association or receive violations for every month the operator is not a member., (d) **Significantly** enhanced responsibilities to the notification center to include: maintain positive response notifications, develop training, develop large project agreements, receive complaints forwarded by the Attorney General, investigate and mediate complaints within six months, make recommendations to the Attorney General., (e) When making the excavation notification, the day of call does not count towards excavation wait time., (f) A subcontractor may piggy back on a general contractor excavation notification if their name is listed on the ticket., (g) Ticket life is fifteen working days from commencement time and date provided by the excavator in one call notification., (h) A excavator that provides a subsequent notice (following same guidelines as initial notification) after the original fifteen working days only extends the commencement date and does not require operators to re-mark facilities unless otherwise required. (i) Ticket limits for projects that will exceed one mile and do not meet the definition of large project., (j) Ticket limits for projects less than one mile and do not meet the definition of large project., (k) Liability language., (l) Tolerance zone excavation restrictions to include facility circumference., (m) Operators must provide a quarterly excavation damage report to the notification board., (n) If an operator designates a representative to carry out obligations and there is a failure to fulfil the obligations; the operator is responsible for any civil penalty., (o) Operator must respond to an emergency ticket within three hours., (p) False claims of an emergency excavation is a violation., (q) Detailed procedures, fines and designations of roles for enforcement actions.

<https://sc811.com/>

South Dakota

South Dakota 811 modified Administrative Rules 20:25:30:05:01 Effective 01/01/2025: A current ticket may not be updated more than twice after the original ticket was requested or after 63 days have elapsed from the date the original ticket was requested.

South Dakota 811 modified Administrative Rules 20:25:01:01 Effective 01/01/2025: Added positive response definitions and requirements.

HB1012 Passed 03/31/2025 This bill clarifies the status of the Statewide One-Call Notification Board as an agency administered by the Department of Public Safety and duties of the Board. Further, this bill breaks down the functional structure of the Board, established a state one call fund, and include penalties to operators who do not adhere to the chapter and rules.

<https://sdonecall.com/>

Vermont

30 V.S.A. § 7006 & 7006a § 6; 2025, No. 43, § 32, Effective June 2, 2025 The bill increases the notification wait time to 72 hours from 48 hours for initial one call notification, updated marking requests and remarking notification request.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/>
<https://www.digsafe.com/>

Virginia

CASE NO. URS-2024-00068 20VAC5-309. Rules for Enforcement of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (amending 20VAC5-309-190) Introduced 04/23/2024; Effective 07/22/2025:

The amendments enable the implementation of new electronic white lining technology, which will assist in defining planned areas of excavation for the further prevention of damage to underground utility lines.

<https://va811.com/>

Washington

SB5627 Passed 05/15/2025; Effective 07/27/2025 This bill made substantial changes as follows: (a) Legislatively requires locating to be free of charge unless the location is for design purposes. Operators may charge for design locates unless this is being performed for the Department of Transportation., (b) Expands definition of emergency to include any unplanned disruption of facility under certain conditions., (c) Work to begin date must be on the one call ticket for it to be considered valid., (d) Enhances operator locating obligations to include name of operator and best known width of facility., (e) Added definitions for blind boring, contractor, force majeure, design locating, hard surface, physical exposure, positive response, potholing, safe and careful work methods, white lining and “work-to-begin” work date (“means an identified date not less than two full business days and not more than 10 full business days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, legal local, state, or federal holidays, from the date notice is given to a one-number locator service.”)., (f) Special notification requirements for excavation activity that takes place within 700’ of a transmission pipeline operator., (g) Special penalty structure for excavation involving hazardous liquid or gas pipeline operators to include per violation penalties of up to \$5,000.00 for violations of law where damage does not occur and up to \$25,000.00 if damage does occur. Further, excavations that begin prior to work start date or prior to receiving positive response are subject to misdemeanor charges., (h) Clarification for the enforcement for violations involving pipeline and for violations involving non-pipeline facilities., (i) One call notification center shall develop free web based applications., (j) Allows excavator to use third party entity to fulfil notification requirements, but excavator maintains compliance responsibilities., (k) Clarifications of special locating requirements for hazardous liquid and gas pipeline operators., (l) Clarifications of design locate request protocols., and (m) Created a new seat on the safety committee for a labor organization that historically represents workers who perform underground utility or excavation work.

Special Note: On and after January 1, 2026, an excavator may not commence excavation until the excavator has received positive response from all operators with underground facilities in the area identified in the notice.

<https://www.utc.wa.gov/>
<https://digsafewashington.com/>

Bills Introduced

Alabama SB95/HB298 Introduced 01/21/2026
Alabama SB205/HB322 Introduced 01/22/2026
Arizona SB1137 Introduced 01/15/2026
New Hampshire HB1169 12/01/2025; Committee 01/26/2026
New York A06879 Introduced 01/07/2026
Ohio HB227 Introduced 10/21/2025, Currently in Senate Hearings
Tennessee HB2024 Introduced 01/22/2026