

## 6.0 Underground Utility Location

### 6.1 Purpose

Underground utility identification and clearance is critical to every site on which FDGTI investigates, drills at or does any construction. First, knowledge of underground line location is vital for safe operations. Second, many states have laws that require all excavators, contractors, and other parties to notify utility companies before beginning excavation on public property. Most utility companies require notice at least 48 hours in advance. Third, the location of these lines by the utility companies reduces FDGTI's liability should lines be mis-located and damaged during drilling or excavation. Another advantage of having the underground utilities identified early in a project is these lines or their backfill can often be preferential pathways for organic vapor or liquids to migrate. Therefore, knowing their location may aid in the site investigation and remediation.

### 6.2 Procedure

6.2.1 Refer to one-call phone listings for your area. This is a utility locating service maintained by the major utility companies. A call to this service (which is usually mandatory prior to subsurface work) will expedite the locating of most (but not necessarily all) major utilities in the area. These services go under different names in different states (One-Call, Underground Services Alert, etc.), and any of the major utility companies (telephone, gas, etc.) will be able to help you contact them.

6.2.2 At the beginning of every project where excavation and/or drilling is anticipated, contact your one-call agency to initiate the utility notification process. This process usually takes 72 hours. In emergencies, the process can be speeded up to 24 hours.

6.2.3 Be prepared to give your one-call agency the name and address of the site; the nearest cross-street; and the data of the intended excavation and/or drilling.

6.2.4 The one-call agency will furnish you with a reference number for the project. Record this number on the Site Investigation form or other permanent record for future referral. There will be an associated expiration date for the work, if they don't furnish it, ask for it; record the expiration date next to the number. Have this number in the field during drilling.

6.2.5 Inquire as to which utilities and/or companies will not be notified by the one-call agency. At a minimum, the following utilities and/or companies must be contacted: electric, natural gas, telephone, cable TV. It is the responsibility of FDGTI to notify any utilities and/or companies that the one-call agency does not contact.

6.2.6 Utility location agencies generally do not contact water and sewer departments which are often part of a local public works department; they must be contacted directly by FDGTI or our contractor.

6.2.7 Typically, utility location agencies do not mark out private hook-ups (i.e., telephone line, water service, etc. that runs from a main line in the street to an individual structure on private property) unless specifically asked to do so.

6.3 Cautions

- 6.3.1 If additional excavation and/or drilling is required at a site and these fall outside of the original area described to the one-call agency, or if the work is scheduled to take place after the one-call expiration date then they must be contacted again. Refer to the original site number.
- 6.3.2 Other underground piping, such as product and vent lines at a petroleum site, should be marked out by the dealer or property owner. You should try to acquire a copy of the facilities plans for reference. Be aware however that such plans often show lines (and even underground tanks) in the wrong location or don't show all of them.
- 6.3.3 No matter who or what method is used to locate underground utilities, never take their exact location for granted. Always begin each excavation and borehole slowly and cautiously, taking care to check for the presence of underground structures or lines for at least the first three feet of depth. If the soil is not too hard, hand auger the first three feet of the borehole. Once drilled, check the first three feet with a (non-conductive) probe to make sure that no utilities are present in the sidewall of the borehole.