

MAFES Dawg Tracks

April 30, 2018



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Call Before You Dig

Whether you drill, blast, dig and/or bore in the ground as part of your job or as a necessity as a homeowner or do these things as an individual for fun, you should first dial the numbers **811** here in Mississippi or 800-227-6477. At least two to three days ahead of any excavating, have all underground utilities located and marked free of charge.

Consequences of unsafe digging include:

- Risk of serious injuries and death.
- Fines and repair costs to fix the underground utility line(s).
- Interrupted services such as electricity, gas and water.

Mississippi 811, Inc. (MS811) is a non-profit organization providing underground utility notification service under Mississippi Code of 1972, Chapter 13, Sections 77-13-1 through 77-13-23. MS811 is a computerized information center located in Jackson which establishes a statewide communications link between those who dig (excavators) and those who own and operate underground facilities (operators) in Mississippi. The information center is funded by member utility companies operating or maintaining underground facilities throughout the state. Members of MS811 are operators engaged in the Communications, Gas Transmission, Gas Distribution, Electric Power, Products/Pipeline, Municipal Gas/Water/Sewer, cable TV, and other industries.

What if I am hand digging, do I have to call?

A locate is not needed if digging 12 inches or less on private property by property owner without use of mechanical equipment and 24 inches or less for agricultural purposes of tilling.

Who is required to give notice to MS811?

MS state law, section 77-13-5 (1) says: In addition to complying with all other applicable regulations and requirements of federal, state, county and municipal authorities, no person shall engage in excavation of any kind, before meeting the notification requirements of this chapter. The only exception is stated in section 77-13-5 (3) : Compliance with the notice requirements of this section shall not be required of: (a) persons plowing less than twenty-four (24) inches in depth for agricultural purposes; (b) persons who are moving or otherwise displacing, by hand, earth, rock or other material or mass of material on or below the ground at a depth of less than twelve (12) inches on property they own; and (c) persons, other than the property owner, who are moving or otherwise displacing, by hand, earth, rock or other material or mass of material on or below the ground at a depth of less than twelve (12) inches, except when such excavation is in a clearly marked underground facility right-of-way. Why risk the possibility of damage to property, injury and death?

Underground Utility Color Codes

RED	ELECTRIC
YELLOW	GAS, OIL, STEAM
ORANGE	COMMUNICATIONS
BLUE	POTABLE WATER
PURPLE	RECLAIMED WATER
GREEN	SEWER / DRAINAGE
PINK	SURVEY MARKS
WHITE	PROPOSED EXCAVATION

For more info contact – Leslie Woolington
MAFES /MSU-EXTENSION
Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control
(662) 325-3204

Sources:
<http://www.ms1call.org/>