



- A damaged facility is investigated as soon as possible after occurrence of damage.
- Forecasting/Planning for Predictable Workload Fluctuations. A plan is developed for dealing with unpredictable fluctuations.



**Call, Design, Locate, and Dig Safely**

**Locating  
and  
Marking**

**UNDERGROUND FACILITIES  
DAMAGE PREVENTION**

**BEST PRACTICES**



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# Locating and Marking

## BEST PRACTICES

Whether you are a facility owner or operator, locator, design professional, one-call center employee, excavator, contractor, or other stakeholder, ensuring the safety of those who work or live in the vicinity of underground facilities and protecting vital services is everyone's responsibility.

The Common Ground Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to shared responsibility in damage prevention. The purpose of the CGA is to ensure public safety, environmental protection, and integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention best practices.

Accurate locating and marking of underground facilities is necessary before any excavation can be performed safely. This brochure provides a brief review of the damage prevention best practices associated with the Locating and Marking of underground facilities. For more detailed information on all of the damage prevention best practices, please visit the Common Ground Alliance Web site at: [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com).



- Locators utilize available facility records at all times.
- If a facility locator becomes aware of an error or omission, then the facility locator provides information for updating records that are in error or to add new facilities.
- A uniform color code and set of marking symbols is adopted nationwide.
- A single locator is used for multiple facilities.
- Locators are properly trained and locator training is documented.
- Locates are performed safely.
- A visual inspection is completed during the facility locating process.
- Facilities are adequately marked for conditions.

- Positive response is provided to facility locate requests.
- Multiple facilities in the same trench are marked individually and with corridor markers.
- Information on abandoned facilities is provided when possible.
- When locating electro-magnetically, active/conductive locating is preferable to passive/inductive locating.
- The facility owner/operator is identified.
- Communication is established between all parties.
- Documentation of work performed on a locate is maintained.