

DIG SAFE ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

UNION BLUFF HOTEL, YORK, ME

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE



ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division specializes in electricity, nuclear power, pipeline safety (natural gas and propane), and underground damage prevention.

Bill Jordan – Director

Lindsey Wells – Admin. Services Coordinator

VERMONT STATUTES AND RULES

- STATUTE - 30 V.S.A. CHAPTER 86 (§§ 7001 – 7008) UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION SYSTEM
- PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION RULE 3.800 - UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION



DEFINITION OF “COMPANY”

“**Company**” means any public utility, municipality, or person that supplies gas, electricity, hot water, steam, telecommunications service, or cable television system that maintains underground utility facilities.



DEFINITION OF “EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES”

30 V.S.A. § 7001(4) "EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES" means any activities that will disturb the subsurface of the earth or could damage underground utility facilities **and** that may involve the removal of earth, rock, or other materials in the ground **or** the demolition of any structure by the discharge of explosives **or** the use of powered or mechanized equipment, including digging, trenching, blasting, boring, drilling, hammering, post driving, wrecking, razing, tunneling, or **pavement or concrete slab removal** within 100 feet of an underground utility facility.

Excavation activities shall **not** include the tilling of the soil for agricultural purposes, routine home gardening with hand tools outside easement areas and public rights-of-way, activities relating to routine public highway maintenance, or the use of hand tools by a company, or the company's agent or a contractor working under the agent's direction, to locate or service the company's facilities, provided the company has a written damage prevention program.

30 V.S.A. § 7004 – *PROPOSED AMENDMENTS 2024*

- (c) at least ~~48~~72 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, but not more than 30 days before commencing excavation activities, each person required to give notice of excavation activities shall notify the system referred to in section 7002 of this title. such notice shall set forth a reasonably accurate and readily identifiable description of the geographical location of the proposed excavation activities and the premarks.
- (d) notice to the system may be ~~in writing or~~ by telephone **or electronic means**. for purposes of this section, the system shall provide a toll-free telephone number.

30 V.S.A. § 7007 NOTICE OF DAMAGE

When any underground utility facility is damaged during excavation activities, the excavator shall immediately notify the affected company. Under no circumstances shall the excavator backfill or conceal the damaged area until the company inspects and repairs the damage, provided that the excavator shall take reasonable and prudent actions to protect the public from serious injury from the damaged facilities until the company or emergency response personnel arrive at the damaged area. An excavator who causes *damage to a pipeline* that results in a release of natural or other gas or hazardous liquid shall promptly report the release to emergency responders by calling 911.

PUC RULE 3.805(C) NOTICE OF DAMAGE - UTILITIES

UPON DISCOVERY OF DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND FACILITIES BY EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES OR OTHER ACTION THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A PROBABLE VIOLATION OF 30 V.S.A. §§ 7004, 7006A, 7006B, OR 7007, A COMPANY SHALL FORWARD AN UNDERGROUND FACILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION REPORT TO THE COMMISSION AND TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION.

REQUIRED FOR UTILITIES

OPTIONAL FOR EXCAVATORS



UNDERGROUND FACILITY DAMAGE REPORTS (UFDR)

Public Advocacy	<h3>Reporting Underground Utility Damage</h3> <p>All public utility companies are required to submit an underground facility damage report upon discovery of a damaged facility. This form is required to be submitted by the owner of the facility that was damaged. It is recommended that the excavator also fill out a copy of this form to report utility damages in order to facilitate the investigation process.</p> <p>Public Utility Companies (Required Reporting)</p> <p>Step 1. Download, complete, and save to your computer the Underground Facility Damage Report (UFDR) (Printable/Fillable PDF Form). Note: you may need to open the form directly in Adobe Acrobat, rather than your web browser, in order to type in the form.</p> <p>Step 2. Upload Completed Underground Facility Damage Report (UFDR) PDF Form</p> <p>Excavators (Optional Reporting)</p> <p>Excavators are encouraged to also report damage to underground utilities to facilitate the investigation process. Please use the same process as for public utility companies, above.</p> <p>A free Adobe PDF viewer can be downloaded here.</p>
Electric	
Natural Gas	
Water	
Cable TV	
Telecommunications	
Efficiency	
Renewables	
Connectivity	
Consumer Affairs and Public Information	

[Link to complete and submit UFDR](#)

UNDERGROUND FACILITY DAMAGE REPORTS (UFDR)



State of Vermont
30 V.S.A. CHAPTER 96A P.U.C. Rule 3.100

[Click here to upload the completed form.](#)

Department of Public Service
112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

This report must be filed upon discovery of damage to an underground facility. All data fields should be completed or form may be judged as not acceptable. Fields in red must be completed to upload the form. All Department questions will be addressed to the person who prepared the report.

Underground Facility Damage Report (UFDR)

*Facility Damaged Gas Electric CATV Telecom Water Sewer Propane

*Name of Utility Damaged: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

*Date & Time Damage Occurred: _____

*Date & Time Utility Received Report: _____

Location of Damage

*Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

*City: _____

Alternate location description if no address available: _____

Longitude: _____ Latitude: _____

Report Prepared By

*First Name: _____ *Last Name: _____ *eMail: _____

*Organization: _____

*Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____ *State: Vermont -

*Telephone: _____

*Excavator Notified Dig Safe in Advance? No Yes Photographs Taken? No Yes

Provide Dig Safe Ticket # _____

Facility Damaged: Transmission Distribution Service

Personal Injuries: No Yes Describe: _____

Underground Facility Damage Report (UFDR) - Page 2

Root Cause of Damage (Hold the Ctrl to select multiple items)

1. No notification made to the one-call center
2. Notification to one-call center made but not sufficient
3. Wrong information provided
4. Facility could not be found/located
5. Facility marking or location not sufficient
6. Facility was not located or marked
7. Incorrect facility record/maps
8. Excavation practices not sufficient
9. Failure to maintain clearance between powered equipment
10. Failure to maintain the marks
11. Failure to support exposed facilities
12. Failure to use hand tools where required
13. Failure to verify location by test-hole (pot-holing)
14. One-call notification center error
15. Abandoned facility
16. Deteriorated facility
17. Previous damage
18. Data not collected
19. Other

What Equipment Caused Damage? (Hold the Ctrl to select multiple items)

1. Auger
2. Backhoe/Track hoe
3. Boring
4. Directional Drilling
5. Drilling
6. Explosives
7. Farm Equipment
8. Grader/Scrapper
9. Hand Tools
10. Milling Equipment
11. Probing Device
12. Trencher
13. Vacuum Equipment
14. Data Not Collected
15. Unknown/Other

Service Interrupted: No Yes, Describe: _____

*Plan to Bill Excavator: No Yes

Incident Description: _____

*I CERTIFY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (print name if eFiling)

*Sign: _____ *Date: _____

Excavator Data

*Company Name: _____

*Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

*City: _____ *State: Vermont - *Zip: _____

*First Name: _____ *Last Name: _____

*Phone: _____

Name of Operator Causing Damage:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Supervisor on Job:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

	2020	2021	2022
UFDRs - Electric	12	12	13
UFDRs - Gas	24	15	19
UFDRs - Telecom/Cable	50	81	54
UFDRs - Water/Sewer	1	0	1
UFDRs - Total	87	108	87
Dig Safe Tickets in VT	33,510	37,217	39,073

DEPTH OF NATURAL GAS LINES – 49 CFR PART 192

MAINS - § 192.327 COVER

- INSTALLED WITH AT LEAST 24 INCHES OF COVER.
- *EXCEPT:*
 - WHERE AN UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE PREVENTS THE INSTALLATION BUT ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO WITHSTAND ANTICIPATED EXTERNAL LOADS IS REQUIRED.
 - IF THE LAW OF THE STATE OR MUNICIPALITY:
- ESTABLISHES A MINIMUM COVER OF LESS THAN 24 INCHES;
- REQUIRES THAT MAINS BE INSTALLED IN A COMMON TRENCH WITH OTHER UTILITY LINES; AND
- PROVIDES ADEQUATELY FOR PREVENTION OF DAMAGE TO THE PIPE BY EXTERNAL FORCES.

SERVICE LINES - § 192.361 SERVICE LINES: INSTALLATION

- DEPTH – BURIED SERVICE LINE MUST BE INSTALLED AT LEAST 12 INCHES OF COVER (PRIVATE PROPERTY) AND AT LEAST 18 INCHES OF COVER IN STREETS AND ROADS. HOWEVER, IF AN UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE PREVENTS INSTALLATION AT THOSE DEPTHS, LINE MUST BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ANTICIPATED EXTERNAL LOAD.

CIVIL PENALTIES

- 30 V.S.A. § 7008: ANY PERSON OR COMPANY WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISIONS OF TITLE 30 SECTIONS 7004, 7006, 7006A, 7006B, OR 7007 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN:
 - \$500.00 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE,
 - \$1,000.00 FOR THE SECOND OFFENSE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF THE FIRST OFFENSE,
 - \$1,500.00 FOR THE THIRD OFFENSE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE FIRST OFFENSE, AND
 - \$5,000.00 FOR THE FOURTH OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF A PREVIOUS OFFENSE
- PUC RULE 3.807(J): IN IMPOSING A CIVIL PENALTY, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATION, THE CULPABILITY OF THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION, ANY HISTORY OF PRIOR VIOLATIONS, THE GOOD FAITH OF THE PERSON IN ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE, THE SIZE OF THE COMPANY BEING CHARGED, THE LIKELY DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE PENALTY, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT OR MITIGATING FACTORS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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