

Call Before You Dig, Mississippi One Call Law

The construction and installation of many conservation practices require some degree of excavation. If you are using mechanical excavating equipment, the MS One Call Law applies. All persons preparing to dig must call Mississippi 811 or utilize the online E-locate system (www.ms811.org) no sooner than two days prior to the beginning of any work. Underground facilities will be marked using the color code system and then work may proceed.

It is the intent of the One Call law to protect underground utility facilities and other underground facilities from destruction or damage, in order to prevent death of or injury to persons, property damage to public and private property, and loss or interruption of essential utility services to the general public.

This pertains to any excavation except:

- (i) the tilling of the soil less than twenty-four (24) inches in depth for agricultural purposes;
- (ii) excavation to a depth of less than twelve (12) inches on private property by the property owner without the use of mechanical excavating equipment;
- (iii) excavation without the use of mechanical excavating equipment to a depth of less than twelve (12) inches on private property by an excavator who is not the property owner, except when such excavation is in a clearly marked underground facility right-of-way.

The responsibility for complying with the One Call Law is placed upon the entity doing the excavation.

Unless the excavator has fully complied with the One Call law, each person responsible for excavation that results in damage to an underground line or underground facility, shall be responsible for any and all costs and expenses incurred by the operator in restoring, correcting, repairing or replacing the damaged line or facility.

Reprinted from “*Conservation News, Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District*” Volume 27, No. 3

Visit the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District website at <http://hcsxcd.co.harrison.ms.us>