



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

2009 DIG SEASON ADVISORY

The ground in Minnesota has begun to thaw and the height of the dig season will soon be upon us. It's also the time of year that many people will begin to think of doing planting and landscaping, installing fences, building decks or working on other home improvement projects that involve digging. Because you've used Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a few tips and reminders to help you work safely. Please click on the links below to get more information on individual topics. The most up-to-the-minute information is always available at our web site : www.gopherstateonecall.org.

- Make sure you are notifying GSOC at least two full business days in advance of your project and not more than fourteen calendar days before you plan to start.

- Think about using the internet to request the location of buried lines. It's FREE, easy-to-use and best of all, you use [ITIC Lite](#) when it is convenient for you. For more information about [ITIC Lite](#), visit our [web site](#) and look for the large red button on the left side or click [here](#).

- During the dig season, GSOC's peak days for calling are Monday through Wednesday. Please avoid calling then if at all possible. If you choose to call on those days, please be prepared for the possibility of extended hold times.

- A lot of helpful information is also available through the web site. Want to find out if the utilities have marked your job site? Need a copy of any locate request taken during the past few years? Try using [Search and Status](#). It's fast, easy-to-use and best of all, it's FREE!

- Click [here](#) to download a copy of the GSOC [Homeowner's Guide](#) - a handy reference to help you prevent damage to buried utility lines and dig safely around your home!

- Take a little extra time and prepare yourself before you call GSOC. Have a pen or pencil and paper handy to make note of important information you will hear at the end of the call. Gathering the necessary facts about your work site in advance will reduce the amount of time you need to call in your locate and get you off the phone faster. Click [here](#) for a list of the information required to complete a ticket.

- Give the locators a hand and pre-mark your project with white markings (paint, flags or stakes). This will assist them in their effort to make sure you get everything in the area of excavation properly marked. It's a good idea, promotes safety and is part of the [law](#)!

- Each utility company uses different colored flags or paint to mark the presence of buried facilities. Click [here](#) for a full explanation of the color code.

- Reserve the locate lines only for calling in your requests. Call the GSOC [Help Desk](#) at 800-245-5825 or 651-681-7326 for any matter that does not involve creating a locate ticket.

- Calling GSOC is a great first step, but it's not the only step you need to take to be safe. Quite often, private facilities are buried under your job site. It's equally as important to be aware of them as well. There's [information about private facilities](#) and a list of [private locators](#) who will help you find them on the [GSOC web site](#).

We appreciate your support of Gopher State One Call and everything you do to make Minnesota a safe place to live and work. Thanks.

Call This Time and Every Time



(800) 252-1166
or
(651) 454-0002