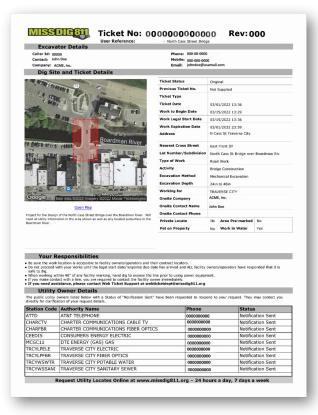


## How to Know When It's Safe to Dig

The submission of a dig ticket is just the first step in creating a safe work environment. What happens after a ticket is placed is just as important as generating a ticket number.

An email confirmation is sent to the ticket originator upon submitting a request. Be sure you receive confirmation of every request. If you don't see it in your inbox, check your spam or junk folders.

The best way to ensure a ticket is good is to review the details on the confirmation sheet. Verify the polygon



covers the work location and that the location information and start dates are accurate. The Work Legal Start Date is the date that member facility owners are required to respond to the request. It is also the date the ticket becomes active. Do not dig prior to the Work Legal Start Date even if all members have indicated it is safe to dig.



Once the Work Legal Start Date has arrived, it doesn't mean it is safe to dig. Be sure to check the status of the ticket in Positive Response. Member facility owners are required to post their findings. Open each response to review the comments. If a member indicated it is NOT safe to dig or has not responded to the request by the

Work Legal Start Date, retransmit the ticket. If you do not have an advanced External Plus account, contact the MISS DIG 811 Notification Center for assistance.

The last step in ensuring the site is ready for digging is to verify job site conditions match positive response postings. The ticket should be retransmitted for unmarked facilities if there is visible evidence of a facility with no markings, a facility owner failed to provide a



positive response, or a positive response posting indicating the presence of a facility but there are no visible marks on site.

For a video on checking the status of a ticket and knowing when it is safe to dig, click <u>here</u> or on the icon to the right.





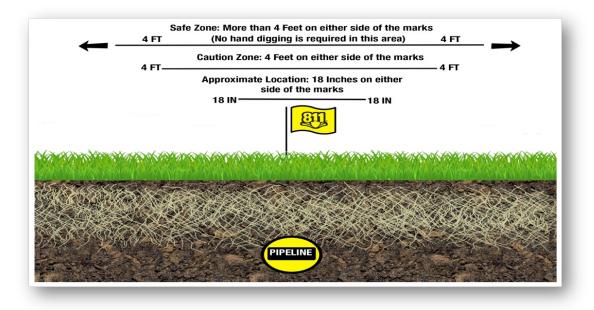
Safety is the number one priority. Keep this information handy and share it with others who would benefit from it.

Online assistance is available from the Web Ticket Department Monday thru Friday from 7 am to 5 pm at:

webticketdept@missdig811.org or 248-370-6420

## The "Dig Zones"

The excavator must determine the precise location of marked underground facilities before using power equipment within 48 inches of the marks. The facility must be physically exposed across the entire width of the proposed excavation. If power equipment will be used within the "Caution Zone", sufficient hand exposing must be done to ensure that the facility will not be damaged. Hand exposing must be done in advance of the use of power equipment.



## Small Scopes = Safe Sites

There are many reasons to place small and precise locate requests, and tools to make it easier for the excavators and locators. Here are the top five reasons to place small scope locate requests:

1. Small tickets are easier and quicker to process, allowing locators to complete more tickets in less time. Precise tickets can help expedite the excavation process by minimizing delays due to unexpected underground obstacles.

2. Small tickets reduce the likelihood of errors or miscommunication, as they contain fewer details to interpret. They are easier and quicker to read for the excavator's field crews too, allowing excavators to begin work sooner with greater confidence in the protected work area.

3. Small tickets can help locators prioritize their work more effectively, as they can quickly identify which tickets require urgent attention. Accidentally damaging underground utilities can lead to environmental hazards, such as gas leaks or water contamination. Precise tickets can help prevent these types of incidents.

4. Small tickets are less overwhelming for locators who may have a high volume of tickets to process, making it easier to stay focused and organized. Accurately marking underground utility lines can help prevent accidents and injuries during excavation. This is especially true when a ticket is retransmitted. Excavators can communicate which area of the job needs additional assistance without requiring the entire worksite to be re-marked.

5. Small tickets can result in cost savings for the organizations. They require less time and resources to process compared to larger tickets for facility owners. Parts of a job can be completed, allowing the

excavator to get to work sooner while more complicated aspects of the ticket are being done. This reduces downtime.

MISS DIG 811 offers tools to make placing small, precise locates easier on the excavators with additional enhancements on the way.

When multiple tickets are needed for a job, the excavator can connect them with the **Continue Action. Using the tickets** information, a new ticket is created, and the previous polygon is visible to make the next polygon easy to draw. Excavators can continue with tickets until the entire scope of the project is complete. Added benefits of this tool include the previous ticket number being included on the new ticket for locators to reference all related tickets and the ability to change the dig start date on the subsequent tickets. If you are completing the job in phases or over a period, MISS DIG 811 encourages users to push out the dig start date to accurately reflect when work

	Actions
÷	Continue ticket
$\otimes$	Cancel
G	Сору
C	Unmarked Facilities
C	Additional Assistance
C	Destroyed Markings
5	History
6	Download confirmation sheet
÷	Resend confirmation sheet

will begin on that section of the project. Even when all the work is beginning at once, creating multiple smaller tickets will result in the benefits previously highlighted, especially when it comes to retransmits



MISS DIG 811 team members are actively testing a new feature for multiple polygons on a single ticket. Users already have access to the drop pin feature created as part of this enhancement. Once deployed, users can better map each location they may be working on a site. This feature will be especially beneficial for pole and sign work. Users will be able to map each pole separately,

all under one ticket without being limited to drawing a large polygon and relying on the remarks field to communicate the location. This is a form of virtual white-lining and is best done by someone familiar with the job site. The use of white paint and flags on the job site will further improve locate accuracy.

MISS DIG 811 is proud to be a part of the damage prevention community by providing tools and communication to help protect underground facilities and those working near them. Each stakeholder plays a vital part in this process. Excavators who know where they are working place accurate and precise tickets. Facility owners ensure their areas of interest on the MISS DIG 811 system are current. Locators accurately mark underground facilities in a timely manner. The Common Ground Alliance (CGE) is working on a series of videos sharing each stakeholders role in the process. The first video released is geared toward excavators and can be viewed by clicking the link below:



No matter the role you play, know your actions have a large impact on keeping Michigan safe!

## **OneCallAccess Forum**

July topic: The Continue Ticket Action Tuesday, July 18th at 1:00 PM Thursday, July 20th at 9:00 AM



Register in MISS DIG 811's Online Education Site (aka SkillBuilder) under MISS DIG 811 Tools and Programs, OneCallAccess in your learning plan.

Registration: https://missdig811.skillbuilder/sign-in

If you have any issues and you are a member call or email: Web Ticket Dept: <u>webticketdept@missdig811.org</u> or 1-248-370-6420



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