

**Michigan Damage Prevention Board
Best Practice 2015-01**

Fence Post Exemption

MDPB Best Practice

The exemption for “replacing a fence post, sign post, or guard rail in its existing location” is intended to include only the action of pulling a post from the ground and placing the new post back into the exact same hole without use of power equipment to enlarge the hole.

It is always advisable to call 811 whenever pulling or placing posts.

PA174 Reference

Section 3(m)(ii)

The definition of “excavation” does not include “Replacing a fence post, sign post, or guardrail in its existing location.”

Discussion

Underground utilities can be placed in close proximity to existing posts. Underground utilities can be immediately adjacent to the wall of the hole left by the removal of posts. These underground utilities are vulnerable to damage when power equipment (or any tool) is used to expand the diameter of the hole for placing a new post.

In some instances, utilities have been found to be bored directly through the base of existing posts and poles. These facilities will be damaged when the post is pulled. Calling 811 and observing marks will alert the excavator that there may be a utility at risk when the post is removed. This knowledge can prevent danger to the excavator and the public.

References

Submission Date 01/11/15

Adoption Date 02/26/15

Revision 1 Date _____

Revision 2 Date _____

The MDPB Best Practices are presented as a general guide. The MDPB encourages all users to consult and consider not only the MDPB Best Practices, but also (i) employer practices, (ii) industry practices, (iii) federal and state statutes and regulations, (iv) building and fire codes, and (v) local laws, regulations, and ordinances.