

**Michigan Damage Prevention Board  
Best Practice 2016-01**

**Removal of Flags Upon Completion of Work**

**MDPB Best Practice**

As other contractors may have requested utility locates for projects nearby, when excavation is complete and prior to removing of MISS DIG flags from the work site, a contractor with an MISS DIG 811 RTE account may use the Near Ticket tool to determine if it is safe to remove the utility flagging. Near Ticket performs a live search in the vicinity of your work site and displays up to a 21-day list of dig tickets near your defined work location.

If there are no other MISS DIG 811 tickets in the vicinity affected by the removal, pull the flags that have been placed for your staking request.

**Method**

To access MISS DIG 811 Near Ticket, navigate to the server address [rte.missdig.org](http://rte.missdig.org) and enter the login credentials of an RTE (Remote Ticket Entry) account. From the Ticket Entry screen, select “new”. Clear all ticket fields by **CLICKING** “yes” to the popup question. Skip to the work location section and complete the following fields: County, Place, and Street.

**CLICK** “Find Street” to display map information. **CLICK** the Near Ticket tool (under the map display/tools) to list dig requests near the work location you defined. Enter a date in the field provided to set the date range of the search then **CLICK** “Get Tkts”. **CLICK** a ticket number from the list to highlight its work area on the display. **CLICK** “In” or “Out” to adjust the ticket’s proximity to your defined work location. Abbreviated ticket information will also display including the dig start date

**PA174 Reference**

Section 11 (1) A person who engages in any of the following conduct is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both:

(c) Willfully removes or otherwise destroys stakes or other physical markings used to mark the approximate location of underground facilities unless that removal or destruction occurs after the excavation or blasting is completed or as an expected consequence of the excavation or blasting activity.

*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.*

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**Discussion**

There have been questions about when it is okay to remove flags from a site when the excavation activity has been completed. The excavator on site is not aware of other MISS DIG tickets that may have been initiated for other work in the same location. Past practice has been to contact MISS DIG (811) to contact supervisor to inquire about “near” tickets. MISS DIG now has tool available for Remote Ticket Entry (RTE) users to check for “near” tickets without need to contact the call center.

**References**

Submission Date 6/22/17

Adoption Date 10/26/17

Revision 1 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revision 2 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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