



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Contractors pay the price for violating dig law

OLYMPIA Wash. – Five excavators have been fined for repeatedly violating Washington state's call before you dig law.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) fined the contractors a combined \$16,000 for failing to obtain a valid underground utility locate before beginning excavation, and damaging natural gas lines on multiple occasions.

The companies include:

- Snohomish-based Aero Construction, \$6,000 penalty for four violations;
- Amboy-based Breaking Ground Excavation, \$2,000 penalty for two violations;
- Sumner-based Dreamline Construction, \$2,000 penalty for two violations;
- Spokane-based Mueller Jackhammer, Inc., \$4,000 penalty for three violations; and
- Spanaway-based Gary Thayer Construction, \$2,000 penalty for two violations.

The call before you dig law, (RCW 19.122 Underground Utilities) charges the UTC with enforcement of violations of the dig law where a natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline is damaged without the excavator having a valid underground utility locate. All penalties collected will be put into a damage prevention account and used for educational outreach designed to improve worker and public safety related to excavation and underground facilities.

The UTC regulates the rates and services of telecommunications companies, investor-owned electric utilities, natural gas and water companies, garbage-collection haulers, household-goods movers and charter-bus companies, commercial ferries, pipeline companies, and a low-level radioactive waste repository.

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