

Dig Law Update

August 7, 2013

Utilities and Transportation Commission

Volume 2, Issue 3

Dig Law Questions?

Law Questions and Outreach

(360) 664-1118

Locate Problem

(888) 333-9882

Call Before You Dig

811 or callbeforeyoudig.org

PO Box 47250

1300 S Evergreen Park Dr. SW

Olympia WA 98504

www.utc.wa.gov

UTC Mission

The UTC regulates the services of privately or investor owned utility and transportation companies. Our mission is to ensure that services are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe.

PHMSA Grants

Each year PHMSA offers grants to agencies, groups and organizations who intend to use it for promoting damage prevention, public safety and education efforts. Requests can be made up to \$45,000. For more information about grants offered by PHMSA, [click here](#).



Damage Reporting

Make sure you are entering your damage data within 45-calendar days of the event. If information is submitted late, it does not get included in our analysis. Remember, *anyone* who witnesses damage is required to report. That means we should be seeing *two* reports for every damage. If you have not already registered with the commission's VirtualDIRT, [click here](#). If you have any questions regarding DIRT, sharing data or the new requirement, contact [Anna Gill](#).

Safety Committee Update

If you have a complaint regarding violations of the dig law as of Jan. 1, [file a complaint](#) with the Dig Law Safety Committee. Keep in mind, complaints brought to the committee will be heard at the next quarterly meeting. You will be required to present your case either in person or via telephone and provide documentation to support your claim. The committee's next meeting and first hearing will be held on Sept. 17 at the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility in Vantage (pictured above). For more information about the Safety Committee, contact them via the [Washington Utilities Coordinating Council](#).



Dig-Safe Training

The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) of Washington has developed a comprehensive training for all industry stakeholders called "Dig-Safe Certification." The training covers best digging practices and changes to the [dig law](#). If you are interested in scheduling a training, contact, [click here](#).



Question of the Month

With the new law now in effect, we thought it would be helpful to publish questions pertaining to the new dig law in each update. Remember, the commission is here to help with any questions or issues you might have.

Q: If I am doing work for a larger project, and the general has already requested a locate, can I work off that ticket?

A: No. The statute states that the "the excavator must provide notice..." ([RCW 19.122.031\(1\)](#)) Digging using someone else's ticket sets you up for liability issues as well as statute violations. Save yourself the headache and make the call. Don't forget, once located, it is your responsibility to maintain those marks for 45 days or the life of your project, whichever is shorter.

If you have any questions regarding this answer, or about RCW 19.122 in general, contact [Anna Gill](#).

8/11 Day

August 11 is 811 day! Use this opportunity to spread the word about the importance of calling 811 before you dig.

