



Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR Director, Bureau of Traffic Operations		1-20-5
CHAPTER 1	General	
SECTION 20	Special Topics	
SUBJECT 5	Avoiding Utility Damage	

LOCATING PRIOR TO DIGGING

It is the policy of the Department that all WisDOT employees comply with the provisions of s. 182.0175 (1m)(a), prior to any digging or excavating of earth either on or off the highway right-of-way whether manually or with powered equipment except in those cases where such digging or excavating is necessary for the immediate protection of highway users.

In all cases except emergencies as discussed below, WisDOT employees whose work requires digging or excavating **shall** investigate what utility companies and others *may* have underground transmission lines in the area where the digging or excavating is required. Diggers Hotline (1800-242-8511) **shall** be contacted prior to digging or excavating. No digging or excavating *may* be done until after the locate by Diggers Hotline.

Additional specific advice regarding locate procedure is contained in the *Signing Guidelines Manual*.

Emergencies in which the practice of contacting the owners *may* be omitted include, in the traffic area, replacement of knocked down, missing, and severely damaged Stop signs, traffic control signals, Stop Ahead signs, Large Arrow signs, and Curve and Turn signs. The installation of new signs (including detour signs) and the routine maintenance of posts are not of an emergency nature. Methods of making emergency repairs are discussed in the *Signing Guidelines Manual*.

DIGGERS HOTLINE MEMBERSHIP

Wisconsin law, s. 182.0175 (1m) (b) requires WisDOT to be a participating member of the one call service known as Diggers Hotline system. As a member, WisDOT needs to provide the one call service with information regarding the location of state-owned

electrical facilities and WisDOT will receive tickets that require WisDOT to locate and mark its facilities when work is to be performed in the vicinity of those facilities.

In order to incorporate WisDOT electrical facilities into the Diggers Hotline database, the Regional offices submit location maps to Diggers. Typical electrical installations to include on the Diggers Hotline service are: signal systems, lighting systems, flashing beacons, ramp meters, changeable message signs, rest areas, and weigh scales.

Following receipt of a Diggers Hotline ticket, WisDOT electrical installations are field-located by Electrical personnel or a designated contractor. To ensure valid tickets are received, electrical installation location maps *should* be verified and updated routinely.