

Part 503 - Safety

Subpart A – Engineering Activities Affecting Utilities

§IA503.0 General

- C. If a utility is damaged or an individual harmed as a result of an incident involving a utility on a job which NRCS has contracted or provided technical assistance, the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, ASTC (FO), is to be notified immediately. In turn, the ASTC (FO) must notify the State Conservationist.
- D. If a utility is damaged as a result of excavation, the excavator must notify the utility company as soon as practical after the incident. The notice must include the type and extent of damage to the utility. If the damage results in an emergency, the excavator must take all reasonable actions to alleviate the emergency.

§IA503.2 General Considerations

- E. All Construction and excavation activities in Iowa are covered by the “Iowa One Call” law. Some of the important features of the law are as follows:
 - (1) The Contractor or person doing excavation is the responsible party for notifying Iowa One Call.
 - (2) Excavation is defined as any “operation in which a structure or earth, rock, or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed, or compressed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives and includes, but is not limited to, grading, trenching, tiling, digging, ditching, drilling, auguring, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing, driving, and demolition of structures.”
 - (3) Normal farming operations are exempt. Tillage operations more than fifteen inches in depth are not exempt. Likewise, digging or driving a post in a new location is not exempt.
 - (4) Any person doing excavation must contact Iowa One Call and provide notice of the planned activity. This notice must be given at least forty-eight hours prior to the commencement of the excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.
 - (5) Iowa One Call must be notified for every project.
 - (6) The toll-free telephone number to Iowa One Call is 1-800-292-8989.
 - (7) Information which must be provided to Iowa One Call includes:
 - (i) The name of the person providing the notice.
 - (ii) The precise location of the proposed area of excavation, including the township, range, section, and quarter section.
 - (iii) The 911 street address of the project.

- (iv) The name and address of the excavator.
- (v) The excavator's telephone number.
- (vi) The type and extent of the proposed excavation.
- (vii) The date and time when the excavation is scheduled to begin.
- (viii) Approximate location of the excavation on the property.

- (8) All underground facility operators participating in Iowa One Call will be notified. However, be aware that there may be some operators of underground facilities, both public and private, who are not registered with Iowa One Call in the area of excavation.

§IA503.3 Investigations

- A. Several types of routine NRCS investigation activities are covered by the Iowa One Call law. Some examples of these activities are as follows:
 - (1) Foundation investigations performed with the drill rig.
 - (2) Investigations performed with the Giddings probe.
 - (3) Soil investigations done with a hand probe, auger, or bucket auger.
 - (4) Backhoe pits.
- B. Each District should obtain a reference number from Iowa One Call. This can be done by registering on the Iowa One Call website. The reference number is assigned to frequent callers to the system. The reference number can then be used for all NRCS investigation activities in the District. A reference number is not required; however, it will make the use of the system more efficient.
- C. On project activities, the area or state office staff person scheduling the work will be responsible for notifying Iowa One Call unless they have made arrangements for the field office to make the contact.
- D. On CO-01 work, the field office will be responsible for making the call to Iowa One Call. It is important to note that this is not for construction activities; it is only for investigation activities. The contractor is responsible for making the call for all construction activities.
- E. For any other type of NRCS activity covered by the Iowa One Call law, the NRCS person responsible for scheduling the activity will be the person responsible for notifying Iowa One Call.

§IA503.4 Buried Utilities

- C. NRCS will include a reminder for contractors to notify Iowa One Call on each project. This may be accomplished by a note on the construction drawings, construction specifications, in correspondence, or other material specific to a job.

§IA503.5 Documentation

- A. Work completed by NRCS personnel in the vicinity of a buried utility must be documented on the IA-CONS-15, Conservation Assistance Notes, or other appropriate notes specific to a project.