

O. U. P. S.

Prevent an "Oops" by Calling O.U.P.S

If you're performing excavations in your yard, prevent damage to utilities by calling the Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) before you dig. Whether you plan to install a new mailbox or a swimming pool, the time you spend making the call will pay off by reducing the potential danger associated with gas and electric lines. Some utilities, such as cable service, are buried inches underground while others are several feet deeper. You could be held responsible for costly repairs to utility lines if you haven't taken precautions by making a call to identify the location of underground lines.

OUPS is a "Call Before You Dig" service for the State of Ohio. State law requires anyone undertaking excavation activities to have the underground lines marked prior to digging. OUPS is a notification center that takes information from excavators and informs member utility companies of the proposed digging location. The utility companies then have 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, to mark their underground facilities or to contact the excavator concerning special requirements. The utility company is only required to mark the facilities they own and maintain.

It is important to note that the Division of Water & Sewer is not responsible for a customer's water or sewer lateral as they are private property. As a result, if marking is requested for work to be done in the yard such as landscaping or planting of trees, the division will provide no markings unless city owned facilities pass through the property. OUPS will also inform a caller about those utility companies registered with OUPS that the caller needs to notify directly. OUPS serves as a communication link between excavators and utilities, but does not physically mark utility lines.

To contact OUPS, call their toll free number, 1-800-362-2764. Additional information is available on their web site at www.oups.org.