5 STEPS TO A SAFE EXCAVATION

1. Survey & Mark
Survey your proposed excavation site. Make a list of affected owner/operators of underground facilities (owner/operators) at your job site, their needs and requirements. Mark the excavation site on paved surfaces with white spray chalk paint; use flags, stakes, whiskers, etc. on unpaved surfaces. (Homeowners can use flour).

2. Call Before You Dig
Call USA North 2 working days before you dig in California and Nevada. Only owner/operators who are members of the USA North program will be notified. USA North accepts design stage requests through its Internet access only, call 925-798-9504 ext 0 for more information. Emergency calls are not accepted in California. In case of a life-threatening situation, call 911 or your local fire department. Compare your list of affected owner/operators determined in Step 1, with the list of owner/operators notified by USA North. For your safety, contact any owner/operator at your job site that is not a member of USA North.

3. Wait The Required Time
The USA North members in CA & NV allows USA North members to examine their underground facility records and respond to you. Our members, who are owner/operators of underground facilities, will provide you information about the location of their facility, mark, or stake the horizontal path of their facility with the appropriate color code, or advise of clearance. Depending on our members’ workload, they may contact you to try to negotiate a new start time for your excavation. This will allow them the opportunity to provide you with greater service.

4. Respect The Marks
Preserve facility marks for the duration of the job. If any of the owner/operator markings are not reasonably visible, you must call USA North and request re-marking by the affected owner/operator(s). A re-mark request requires a 2 working day notice in CA & NV. When you request a owner/operator(s) to re-mark their facilities, you will be asked if your excavation site is still outlined in white spray chalk, so the USA North members can respond to your request. Your ticket is active for 28 calendar days in CA and 14 calendar days in NV from the date of your call to USA North. You must have an active USA North ticket for the entire duration of your excavation.

5. Dig With Care
In California hand excavate within 24” of the outside diameter of the facility – in Nevada, 30”. Facilities that are in conflict with your excavation are to be located by hand and protected before power equipment is used. Notify the affected utility of any contact, scrape, dent, nick or damage to their facility. Refer to California Government Code 4216 and Nevada Regulatory Statute 455.080 - 455.180 for liability risks. There are fines of up to $50K and $100K respectively for violations of these state laws.

USA NORTH
4090 Nelson Avenue, Suite A • Concord, CA 94520-1232
Call 6:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. (PT) • Monday - Friday
Dig Safely.
www.usanorth.org