



Toolbox Talk

Volume 19: What do the marks mean?

Topics: Understanding and Maintaining Marks

Underlying Rules:

- 16-345-4(c)(7): Avoid covering or removal of surface markings, flags or stakes indicating underground facilities during construction activity prior to the actual excavation or demolition in the vicinity of the located facilities. If such markings, flags or stakes are to be covered or removed during the excavation or demolition activity, the excavator shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain the location of the underground facilities by use of offset marks or maps.

Scenario: A contractor was replacing a telephone pole when the augur came in contact with and damaged a 2 inch plastic gas main. At the time of the damage the contractor had covered the markout with a tarp to collect the excavation spoils. The contractor contacted the fire department and the gas company. The natural gas main was properly marked and the contractor received a warning letter from PURA for the incident .



Pole to be replaced and offset marking indicating gas main is 3 feet from the offset markout.

Damage location, approximately 3 feet from the markout.



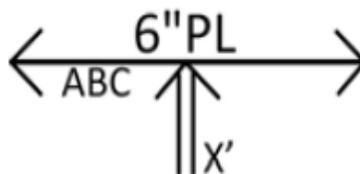
What should have been done?

The contractor should have recognized the markout was an offset markout and indicated the gas main was located between the curbing and the existing pole, which would require the pole to be installed in a different location from the main. The contractor should not have covered the markout for the gas main with the tarp to collect spoils as it visually blocked the markout.

Lessons Learned:

- Never cover existing markings, keep track and discuss the markings with your crew where extra care is needed.
- Offset markings (example shown below) indicate where a utility facility is located by measuring from the center line of the markout in the direction and length indicated by the arrow pointing towards the centerline of the markout.

(C) Surface markings for an offset mark for run of pipe where X' represents the distance, in feet, from the reference line to the underground facility;



Crew Sign-in		Training Conducted by: _____		Date: _____	
Name	Initial	Name	Initial		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____		

CBYD Toolbox Talks are designed as quick training tools for use by excavator's safety or management personnel to have brief but meaningful discussions about safe excavation practices. These talks are based on real incidents that have occurred in Connecticut or significant incidents elsewhere in the country.

For questions or additional training, contact Sean Morris of PURA at (860) 827-2888.