



Toolbox Talk

Volume 22: Are You Cleared to Dig?!

Topic: Staying within the proposed area of excavation

Underlying Rule: 16-345-4(1)(A) The excavator must notify the central clearing house of the specific location of the designated area of excavation. Should field conditions or other circumstances require the excavation to be expanded outside the originally designated area, a separate Call Before Dig ticket shall be called in for the expanded location.

Scenario: A contractor submitted a Call Before You Dig ticket to disconnect a water service line supplying a fire hydrant. However, during construction, the contractor excavated approximately 50 feet outside the premarked work area to install a new fire hydrant. While excavating, the crew encountered sand and warning tape but continued digging, ultimately striking and damaging a 4-inch plastic gas main. The contractor immediately notified the fire department and the utility company. As a result, the roadway was closed until later that afternoon while the gas leak was addressed and repairs were completed. The utility subsequently filed a damage report with PURA, which issued a warning letter to the contractor for the excavation damage.

Location of
the active
Call Before
You Dig ticket



Location
where new
fire hydrant
was being
installed
outside of
the original
CBYD ticket
and location
where the 4"
plastic gas
main was
damaged.

What should have been done?

The contractor should have reviewed their active Call Before You Dig ticket and realized they were only clear to dig within their premarked area of excavation. After, the contractor should have called in a new dig ticket for the fire hydrant install and waited for the start date of their new ticket. When the contractor encountered sand and warning tape they have ceased excavation activities and checked if they had a Call Before You Dig ticket for that area.

Lessons Learned:

- Always make sure that your Call Before You Dig ticket matches the scope of your work and the premarked area of excavation.
- Never dig outside of your premarked area of excavation as you are not cleared to dig in areas outside of your premarks.
- If you find evidence of a possible unmarked utility line; stop excavating and check if you have a Call Before You Dig ticket for that area or contact the corresponding utility for assistance.

Crew Sign-in

Training Conducted by: _____ Date: _____

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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.