

Damage Prevention Program

- Pipeline Safety Division
- Texas's 79th Legislature: 2005
- May 30th 2007 the Commission adopted Chapter 18
 - Effective September 1, 2007
- 12 staff: Austin, Houston, Fort Worth

How This Affects You

- Safety:
 - you, your work crews, their families
 - Citizens of Texas
- Penalties:
 - steep/strong enforcement
- Statistics:
 - 63% of excavation damages in Texas are due to action the excavator failed to take

16 TAC Chapter 18

Underground Pipeline Damage Prevention

- Scope, Applicability, and General Provisions
- Definitions
- Excavator Notice to Notification Center
- Excavator Obligation to Avoid Damage
- Obligations w/Respect to Positive Response
- Marking Requirements: General, Excavator, Operator
- Managing Excavation Site/Large Projects
- Reporting Requirements
- Penalty Guidelines

Scope, Applicability & General Provisions

Who does Chapter 18 apply to?

- FEW exemptions
 - Less than 16"
 - Surface mining operations
- TxDOT contractors, agriculture, and municipalities NOT exempt
- Applies to intrastate pipelines
- Ticket life, 18.1(h)

Definitions

- Damage (1)
- Emergency (3)
- Positive Response (17)
- Tolerance Zone (21)
- White-lining (24)

Excavator Obligations

- CALL 8-1-1
- WAIT 48 Hours
- Use CARE
 - Positive Response
 - Visual Check
 - Tolerance Zone
 - Avoid Damage
 - Preserve & Protect Markings/Refresh
- REPORT

Use Care: Positive Response

- 18.5(b) Make a Record
- 18.1(i) Retain for Four (4) Years

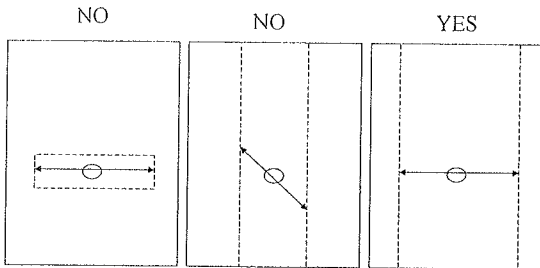
Use Care: Visual Check

- 18.4(c) CONFIRM
- 18.4(d) VERIFY
- 18.4(e) SECOND NOTICE
- 18.4(f) MAY BEGIN IN 4 HOURS

Use Care: Tolerance Zone

- 18.2(21) Definition
- 18.10(b)
 - Exercise such reasonable care as to *prevent damage*
 - Methods to consider do not include using mechanized equipment
- Pavement Removal/Operator Approval

Use Care: Tolerance Zone



Use Care: Avoid Damage

- Chapter 18 emphasizes the excavator's obligation to avoid damage
 - 18.4(a) regarding planning an excavation
 - 18.10(b) regarding excavation within the tolerance zone

Use Care: Refresh Ticket

- Refresh ticket
 - If marks have been destroyed
 - If project will not be completed when ticket expires
- Wait 48 hours when refreshing ticket
- Limited to area yet to be excavated

Pipeline Operator Obligation

- Positive Response:
 - 48 hours or time agreed to
- Marking:
 - Required to mark existing pipelines accurately, including service lines
- Customer Owned Facility Notification:
 - Reasonable effort

Marking Guidelines

- Color Codes:
 - American Public Works Association Standard
- Location:
 - Clearly indicate approximate location and direction of pipeline
 - Separate marks for each pipeline or corridor
- Diameter:
 - 6" or greater must be indicated every other mark

Trouble Locates

- Operator to notify during 48 hour window
- Excavator is required to work with operator on determining an agreeable time
- Operator is obligated to accurately locate the pipeline

Special Cases

- Unclear Project
 - Large Scale Project
 - Face-to-Face Meeting
 - Protocols In Writing
- 18.3 indicates when protocols should be established
- 18.9 gives ideas on how to establish protocols and what should be determined in the process

Penalty Guidelines

- Suggested Penalties at \$1000
- Enhancements
- Avoid by Following Chapter 18

Reporting Requirements

- Immediately call 911
- Call Notification Center **ASAP**/2 Hours
- Report through TDRF
 - Any type of “damage” as defined in our rule, within 10 working days of the incident, on our online system.
 - Failure to Provide Positive Response with or without damage

For reporting questions:

- www.rrc.state.tx.us
- Call 512-475-0512
- Email us at TDRFInfo@rrc.state.tx.us
- Questions?
