

State Damage Prevention Law Summary
State: District of Columbia
(Link to State law provided in Law & Regulation section below)
Summary Date: 8/7/2017

Excavator Requirements	
Excavation: Definition	Code of the District of Columbia (DC Code) § 34-2701. (1) The terms "demolition" or "demolish" mean any operation by which a structure or mass of material is wrecked, razed, moved, or removed by means of any tool, equipment, or explosive. (2) The terms "excavate" or "excavation" mean any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed or otherwise displaced by means of any tool, equipment, or explosive, and include but are not limited to grading, trenching, digging, ditching, drilling, boring, augering, tunnelling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing and driving, wrecking, razing, moving, or removing any structure or mass of material.
Excavator: Definition	DC Code § 34-2701. (4) The term "person" means any individual, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation, association, agency of the District of Columbia government, or other governmental body or authority, except the United States government, and shall include any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.
Excavator Notice to One Call Required (Yes / No)	Yes
Excavator Notice Minimum # Working Days Before Digging	2
Excavator Notice (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2704. (a) Except as provided in § 34-2709, no person shall excavate in a street, highway, public space, or on private property, or demolish a building without first notifying, by telephonic or teletype, at least 48 hours, but not more than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays), prior to the commencement of the proposed excavation or demolition, each public utility operator which may have underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation. Such telephonic or teletype notification shall be accomplished by notifying the one-call center within the time limit prescribed, which shall in turn notify the appropriate public utility operators.
Ticket Life (# of days)	15 (DC Code § 34-2704. (g))
White-Line Required (Yes / No)	No
Tolerance Zone	18" (DC Code § 34-2704. (d))
Special Digging Requirements Within Tolerance Zone (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2704. (d) When the actual excavation or demolition operation enters the immediate vicinity of an underground facility or utility line transporting natural gas, the person responsible for the excavation or demolition shall expose the underground facility or utility line by hand digging; provided, that a test pit hand dug by the District government, which locates the utility line, shall meet the requirements of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, the immediate vicinity of the underground facility or utility line shall be defined as a space within 18 inches from the nearest point on the underground facility.
Hand Dig / Vacuum or Soft Excavation Within Tolerance Zone (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2704. (d))
Preserve / Maintain Marks Required (Yes / No)	No
Call Again If No Response from Operator Or Signs Of Unmarked Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Notify One-Call if Marks Moved or No Longer Visible (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2704. (g))
Special Language Regarding Trenchless Technology (Yes / No)	No
Separate Locate Request Required for Each Excavator (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2704. (a))
Notify Operator of Damage (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2706. (a))

Notify One Call Center of Damage (Yes / No)	No
Call 911 if Hazardous Materials Released (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2706. (b))
Notice Exemptions (Yes / No)	Yes
Notice Exemptions (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2705. (d) Persons and operators excavating for routine maintenance, including patch-type paving, will not be required to comply with the notification and marking procedures of this chapter, if they excavate within the limits of the original excavation, and if the excavation does not exceed 12 inches in depth below the grade existing prior to said excavation.
Operator Response	
Minimum # Days for Operator to Respond After Receiving Notice (Generally)	2
Operator Requirements to Respond to Locate Notification (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2704. (c) If it is determined by a public utility operator that a proposed excavation or demolition is planned in such proximity to an underground facility that the facility may be damaged, dislocated, or disturbed, the public utility operator shall within 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) respond by marking, staking, locating, or otherwise providing the approximate location of the public utility operator's underground facilities.... (e) If the public utility operator, notified by the one-call center, determines that its underground utility lines or facilities will not be affected by the excavation or demolition, the public utility operator shall advise the person who proposes to excavate or demolish that marking is unnecessary.
Minimum Standards for Locator Qualifications (Yes / No)	No
Minimum Standards for Locator Qualifications (Specific Language)	Not addressed
Law Specifies Marking Standards Other Than Color (Yes / No)	No
Law Specifies Marking Standards Other Than Color (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Law Includes Specific Language For Operators To Locate Sewer Laterals (Yes / No)	No
Law Includes Specific Language For Operators To Locate Abandoned Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Locate Abandoned Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact Excavator (Yes / No)	Yes
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact Excavator (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2704. (e) If the public utility operator, notified by the one-call center, determines that its underground utility lines or facilities will not be affected by the excavation or demolition, the public utility operator shall advise the person who proposes to excavate or demolish that marking is unnecessary.
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact One Call Center (Yes / No)	No
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact One Call Center (Specific Language)	Not addressed

Positive Response - One-Call Automated (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Provide One-Call Center with Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Provide One-Call Center with Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Operator Must Update Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Update Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
New Facilities Must Be Locatable Electronically (Yes / No)	No
New Facilities Must Be Locatable Electronically (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Design Request (Yes / No)	No
One Call, Enforcement, and Reporting	
Mandatory One Call Membership (Yes / No)	Yes. (DC Code § 34-2702. (a))
One Call Membership Exemptions (Yes / No)	No
One Call Membership Exemptions (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
One-Call Law Addresses Board Make-Up (Yes / No)	No
One-Call Law Addresses Board Make-Up (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Separate Body Designated to Advise Enforcement Authority (Yes / No)	No
Separate Body Designated to Advise Enforcement Authority (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Penalties / Fines Excavators (Yes / No)	Yes
Penalties / Fines Excavators (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2707. (c) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$2,500 for the first violation, \$3,500 for the second violation, and \$5,000 for the third or subsequent violation.
Penalties / Fines Operators (Yes / No)	Yes
Penalties / Fines Operators (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2707. (c) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$2,500 for the first violation, \$3,500 for the second violation, and \$5,000 for the third or subsequent violation.
Penalties / Fines Other (Yes / No)	Yes

Penalties / Fines Other (Specific Language)	DC Code § 34-2707. (c) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$2,500 for the first violation, \$3,500 for the second violation, and \$5,000 for the third or subsequent violation.
Enforcement Authority Identified	DC Code § 34-2707. (c) ... Action to recover the civil penalties provided for in this section shall be brought by the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
Damage Investigation Required by Enforcement Authority (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting of Excavation Damage by All Utility Owners to State Entity or Department (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting by Excavators to State Entity or Department (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting to State Entity or Department - Gas Only (Yes / No)	No
Law and Regulation	
Statute / Law (Name & Link)	District of Columbia Official Code (DC Code), Div. V, Title 34, Subtitle VII, Chapter 27, Underground Facilities Protection, §§ 34-2701 to 34-2709. (https://beta.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/34/chapters/27/) Also see One-Call Center Website for Information on State Law.
Date of Last Revision to Statute / Law	May 23, 2000
Administrative Rules / Regulations (Yes / No)	No
Administrative Rules / Regulations (Name & Link)	None
State One Call Center(s) (Name & Link)	Miss Utility - Washington, DC (http://www.missutility.net/washingtondc/)
Miscellaneous Notes	
Notes	0
State Damage Prevention / One-Call Law Recently Revised With Future Implementation Dates	0