

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION PAPER SERIES:
EQUIPMENT & PARTY RENTAL BEST PRACTICES FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES**



CHECK BELOW GROUND BEFORE SETTING UP ABOVE.

There are reportedly 20 million miles of underground utilities here in the United States, which presents a challenge to rental companies who are engaged in the renting of “tents” or other objects which are required to be secured or staked. These objects could be erected either by rental company employees or the customer. Prior to staking or securing, the rental company and/or the client should identify any underground utilities that may be damaged by their work prior to performing any such work. The rental contract used should clearly identify whose responsibility (the Rental Company or client) it is to identify and flag the existence of any underground utilities.

Performing staking or securing without knowing where underground utilities are can cause damage to electric, gas, communications, water and sewer lines leading to catastrophic injuries and expensive repairs and fines.

**PROCEDURE BEFORE STAKING
OR SECURING**

To minimize the risk of loss, several days before staking or securing, you should:

- Call the underground utilities service’s local call center
- Describe what type of staking/securing you’ll be performing and where you intend to stake/secure the object.

Utility companies who may have underground lines in your stake/secure area will then be notified.

These companies will send a locator to identify and mark the location of underground utility lines in your stake/secure area – usually within two to three working days.









No staking or securing should be performed until the area is clearly identified and flagged.



It's the law. Calling before you dig is not only a best practice to follow – it's the law in most states.

COLOR CODING TEMPORARILY IDENTIFIES UTILITY LINES

Markings used will follow the American Public Works (APWA) [Uniform Color Codes](#) for temporary marking of underground utilities:

	Red	Electric power lines, cables, conduit, and lighting cables
	Orange	Telecommunication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
	Yellow	Natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or other gaseous or flammable material
	Green	Sewers and drain lines
	Blue	Drinking water
	Purple	Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines
	Pink	Temporary survey markings, unknown/unidentified facilities
	White	Proposed excavation limits or route

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