

Georgia Underground Marking Standards

PSC RULE 515-9-4.14



AGENDA

- GUFPA
- PSC Rules
- Marking Standards
- Sufficient Particularity
- Educational Materials

GUFPA Law and PSC Rule

- **GUFPA- “Dig Law”**
 - Passed by the State Legislature
 - Enforced by the PSC
 - Maximum \$10,000 fine per violation
 - Fines can be mitigated by PSC Certified GUFPA training classes
- **PSC Rules**
 - Rules created by PSC
 - Enforced by PSC
 - Maximum \$15,000 fine per violation



Facility Owner/Operator Responsibilities



Utility Markings

Indicate utility facilities by placing

- UPC alpha code (AGL)**
- Type of material the facility consists of, if known, at the beginning & end of locates.**
- Arrows should be placed at the ends of markings to indicate that the underground facility continues.**

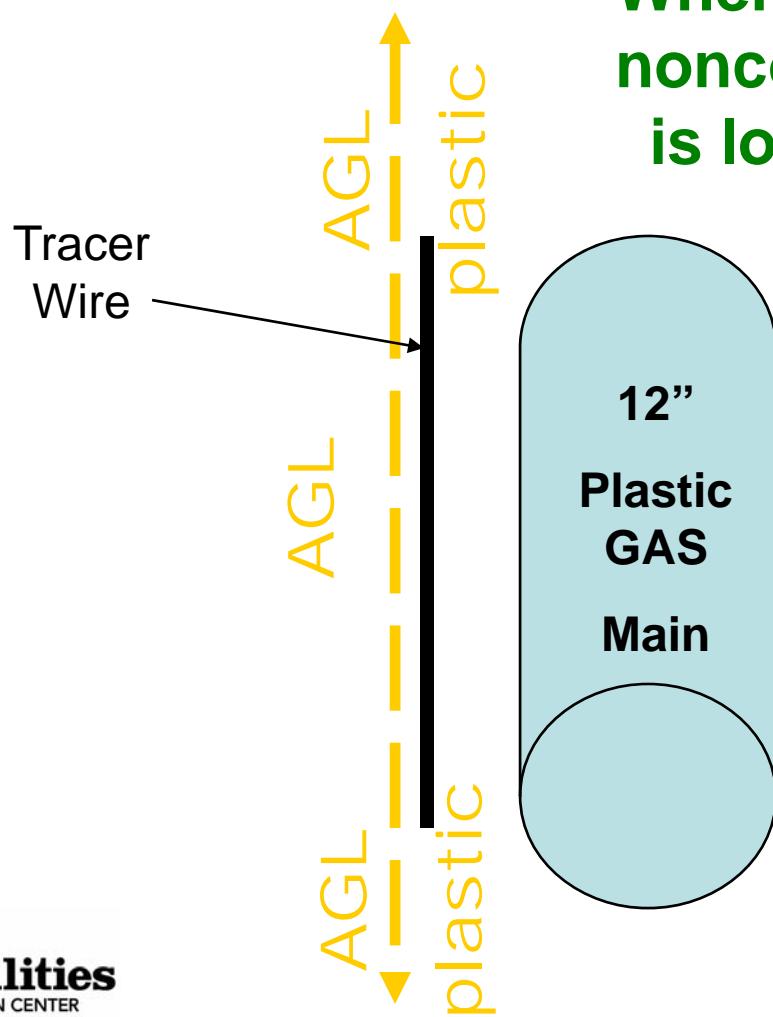


Utility Markings Cont.

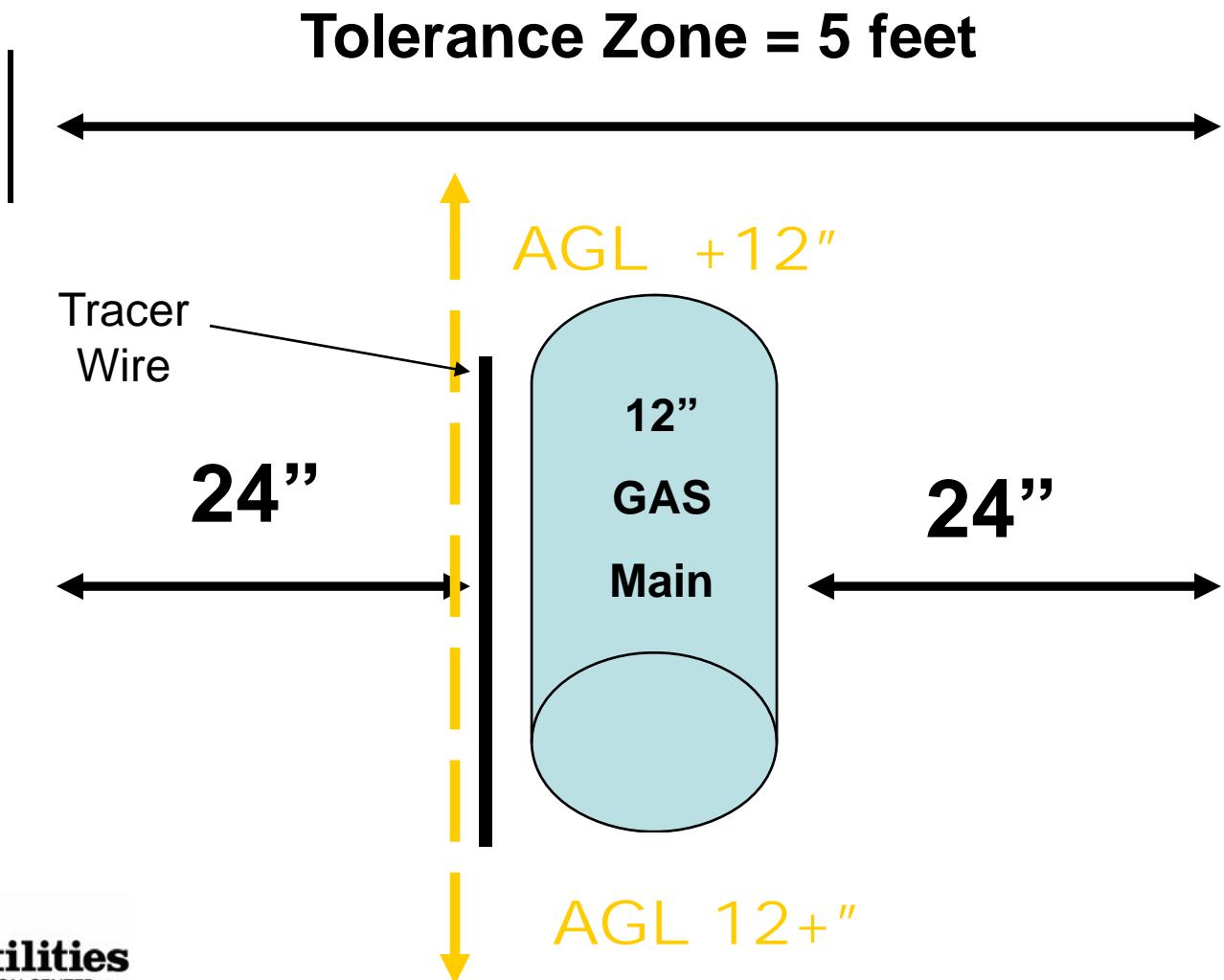
- The marks shall indicate the approximate center-line of the underground lines. For example, the middle of the cable, line or pipe shall be at the center of the dashed marks.

Locating Nonconductive Lines

When locating lines that are nonconductive a tracer wire is located NOT the facility

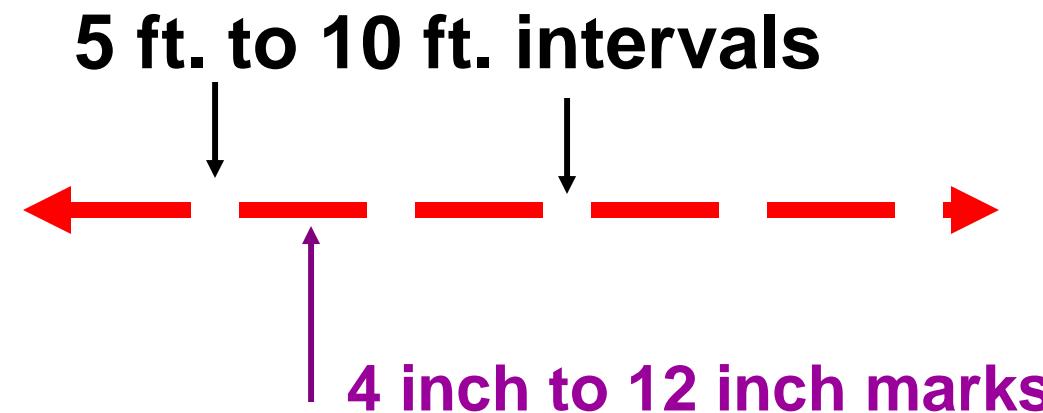


Understanding Tolerance Zone



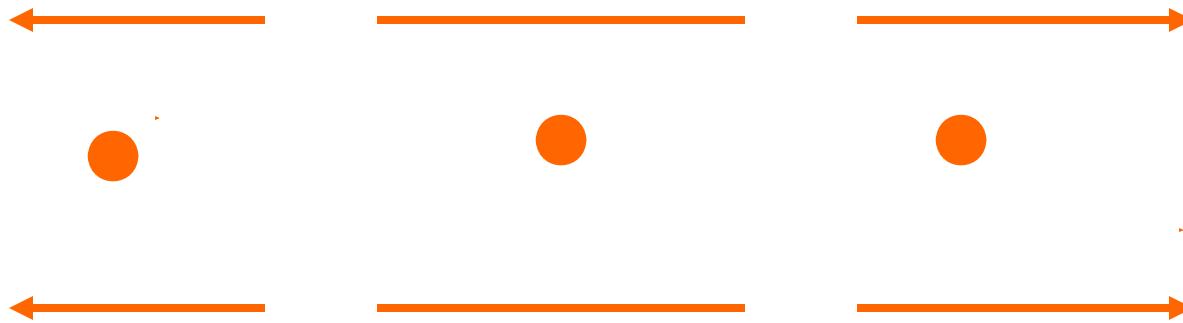
Utility Markings cont.

- Location marks shall be 4 to 12 inches in length & at intervals of 5 to 10 feet.



Marking Duct Structures

- Ducts structures shall be marked by using a dot with parallel boundary on each side of the dot.



Joint Trenching

- Facilities that share the same trench

← CCAST → CCAST → CCAST →

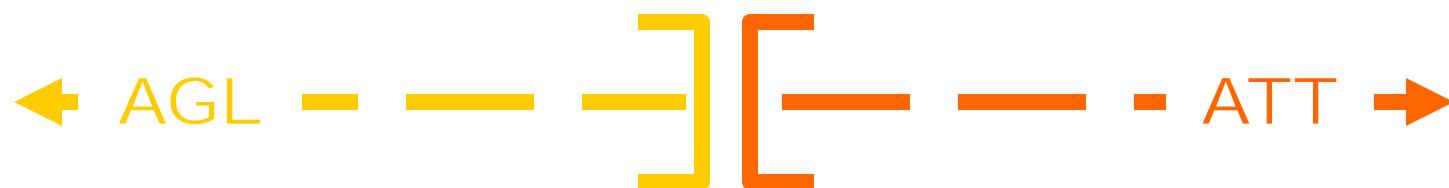
← AGL → AGL → AGL →

- This would apply to lines that use the same color code.

← → → → → → → →

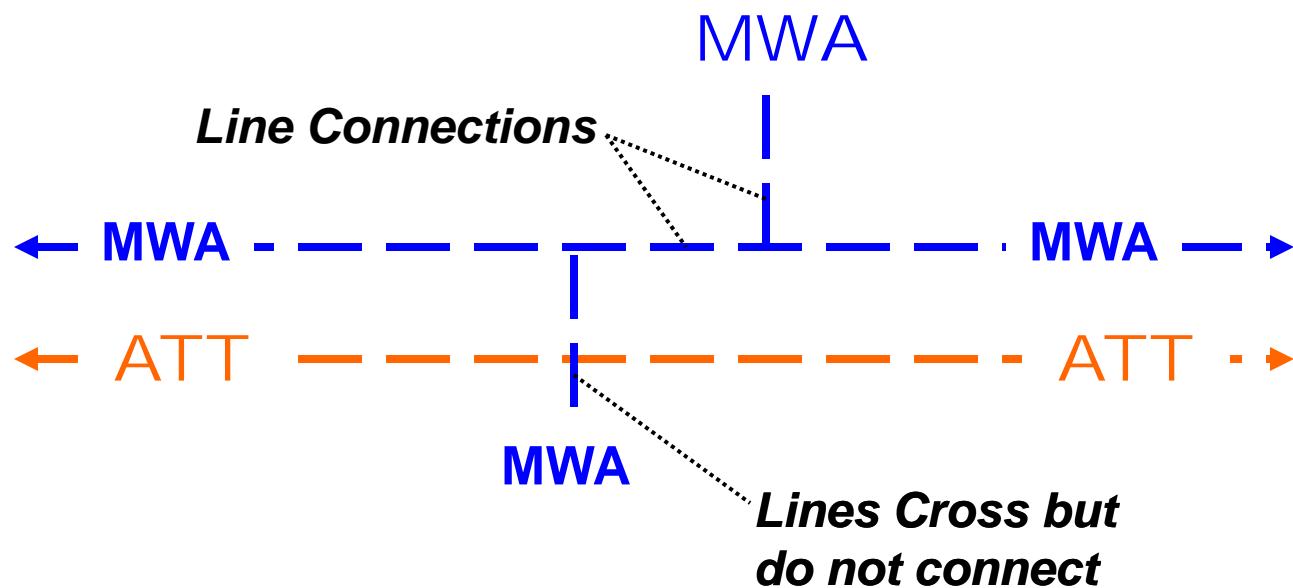
Other Marks

- **Dead ends, stub-outs, termination points, etc., shall be marked as follows**



Connecting Lines & Lines that Change Direction

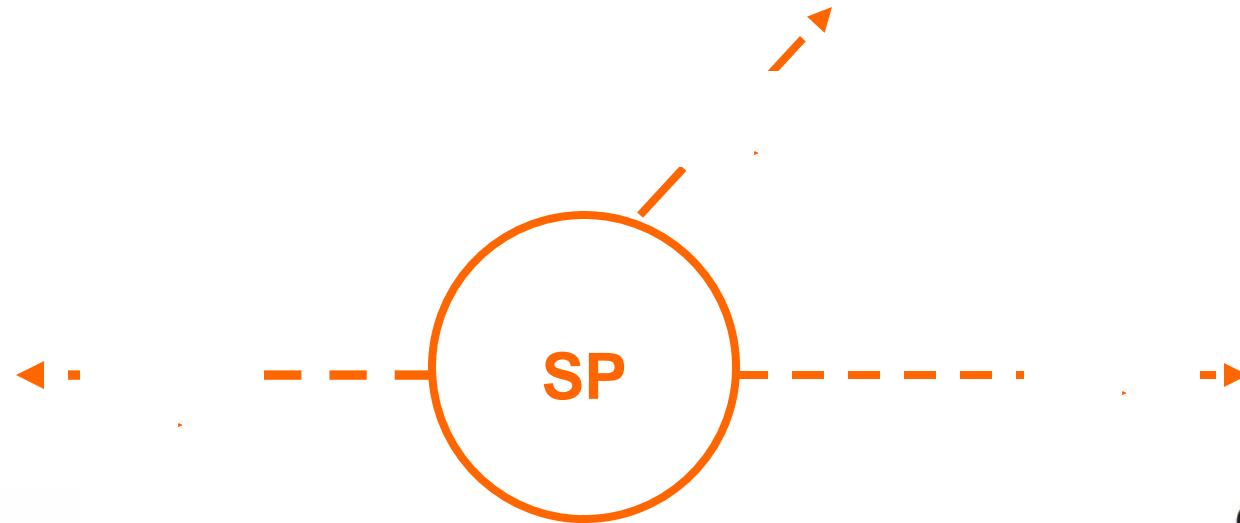
- Lines that have connections (e.g., T's or Y's) or changes in directions shall be clearly indicated.





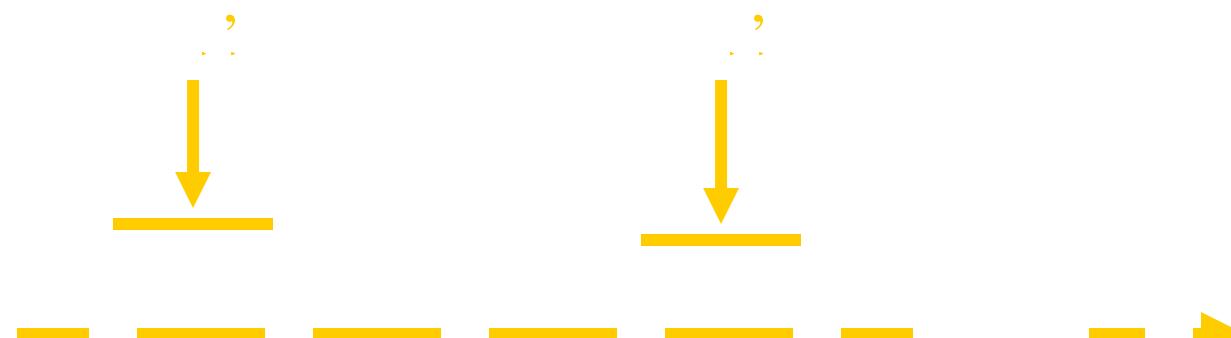
Splice Pits

- In areas where cables are spliced, the facilities should be located individually as far as possible on both sides of the splice. When the signal is distorted due to the near proximity to the splice, use a circle with “SP”.



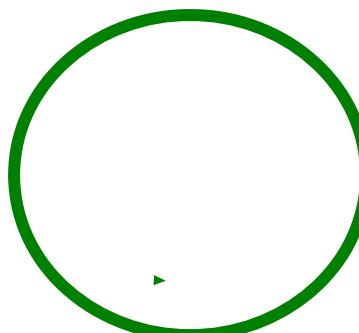
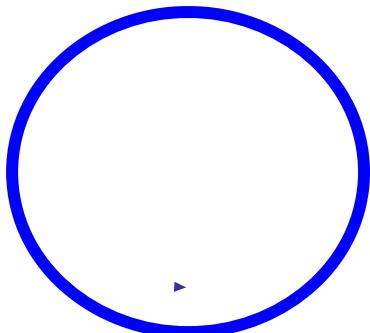
Offsets

- In areas of high construction traffic, offsets shall be placed on a permanent surface, spaced every third or fourth mark. Use only in conjunction with marks placed above a facility.



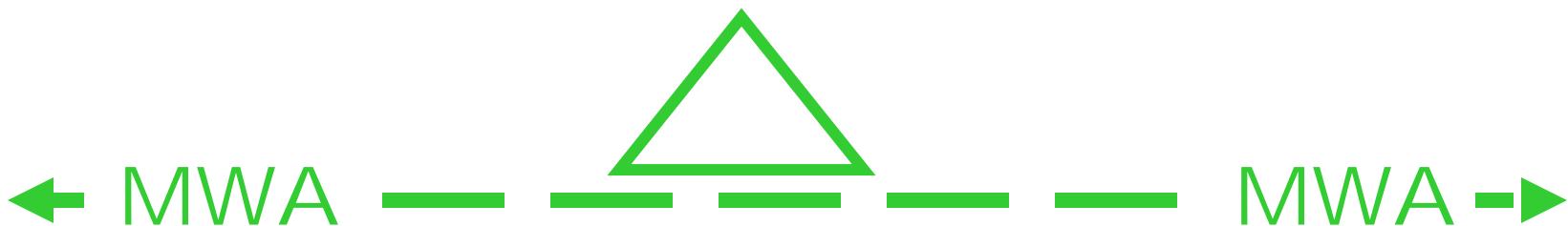
Manholes and Valves

- **Manholes and valves shall be identified by using a circle and letters if they are not visible (dirt covering valve boxes or pavement covering manhole cover).**



Unlocatable Sewer Laterals

- **Unlocateable sewer laterals shall be marked by placing a green triangle, on the sewer main, toward the address(es) in question.**



These locate marks represent ONE unlocatable sewer lateral. If there are 3 unlocatable laterals there should be 3 green triangles.

Known Diameters Greater than 12"

- If the facility to be marked has a diameter greater than 12", the size of the facility shall be indicated if known.



Unknown Diameters Greater than 12"

- If the size of the facility is not known, then the mark shall indicate greater than 12 inches.

AGL +12"

AGL +12"

Sufficient Particularity



PSC Marking Standards Rule

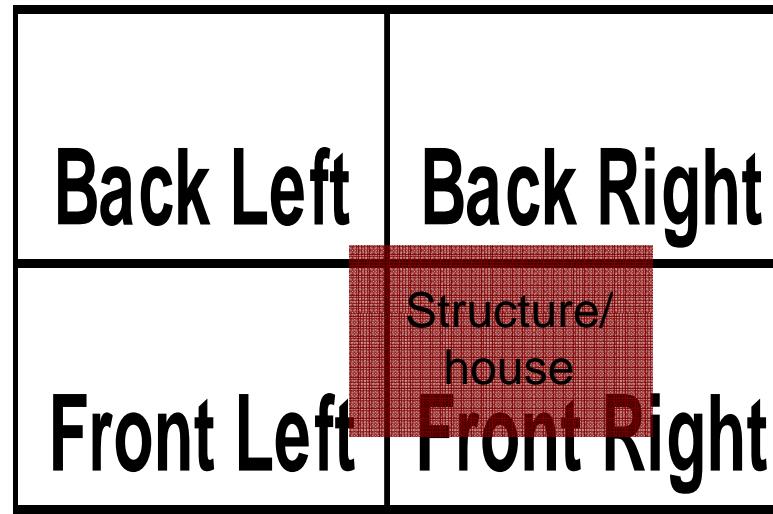
- 515-9-4-.14 (d)
- Directive to UPC. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 25-9-4 (a) (1), 25-9-6 (a) (1) and (b), 25-9-7 (a) (2), and 25-9-13 (f) and pursuant to Commission Utility Rule 515-9-6-.01, the Utilities Protection Center, Inc. (“UPC” or “One-Call Center”) is hereby directed to establish policies and procedures which identify when white lining is required.

Sufficient Particularity

- **Sufficient Particularity** is achieved when the area of excavation is described in such a way that there is no question where the digging will take place.
- AKA: Verbal White Lining

Use Quadrants for Verbal White Lining

- Lots will be divided into four quadrants identified as if standing in the street at the curb in the middle of the property facing the lot.

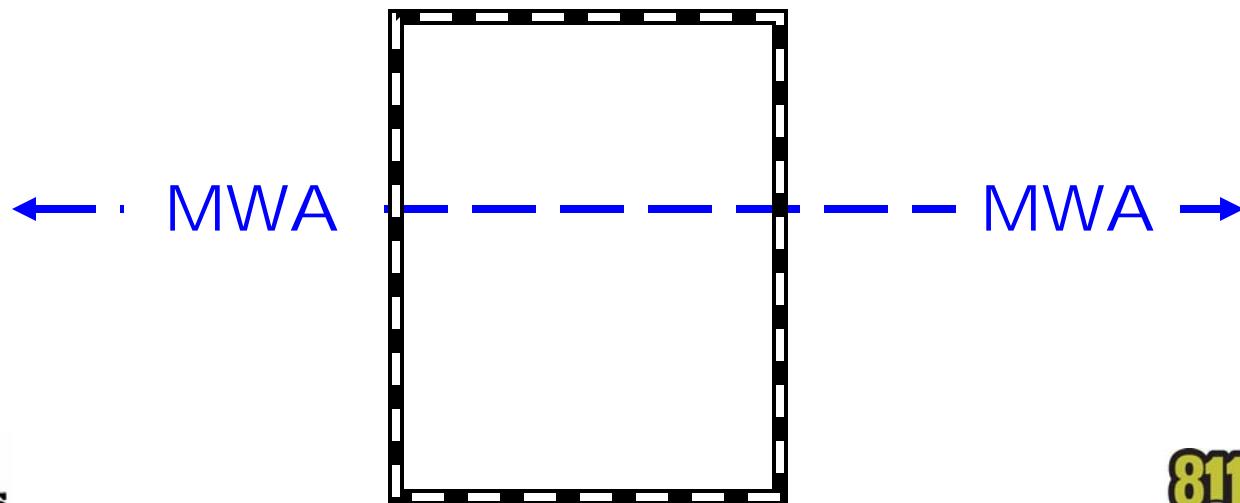


White Lining

- **Physical White Lining is to be used when Sufficient Particularity is not descriptive enough to clearly lead a locator to the excavation area.**
- **The purpose of White Lining is to provide a physical outline of the dig site, illustrating the exact location of the proposed excavation site.**

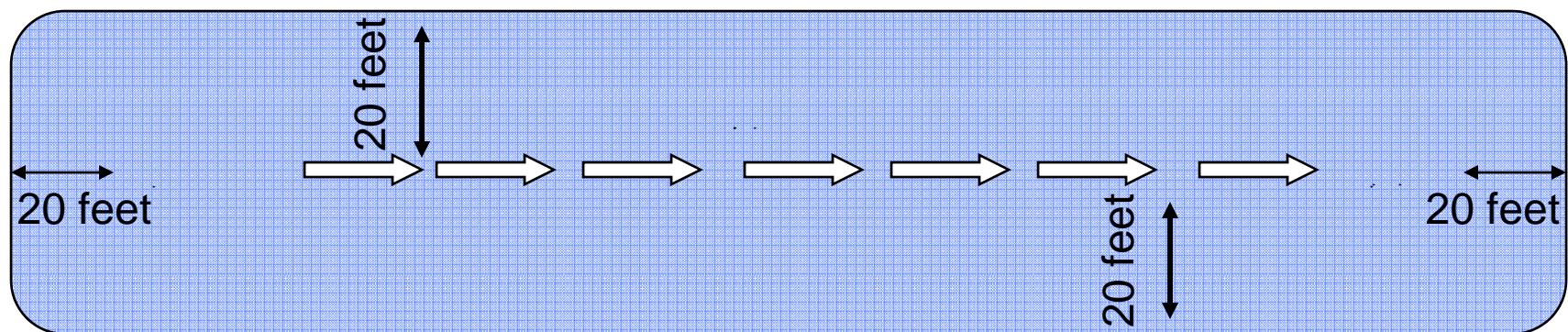
Locator Marks and White Lining

- The Locator shall extend marks outside the proposed work area by 20 to 30 feet *if those facilities extend outside the proposed excavation area.*



White Lining Symbols

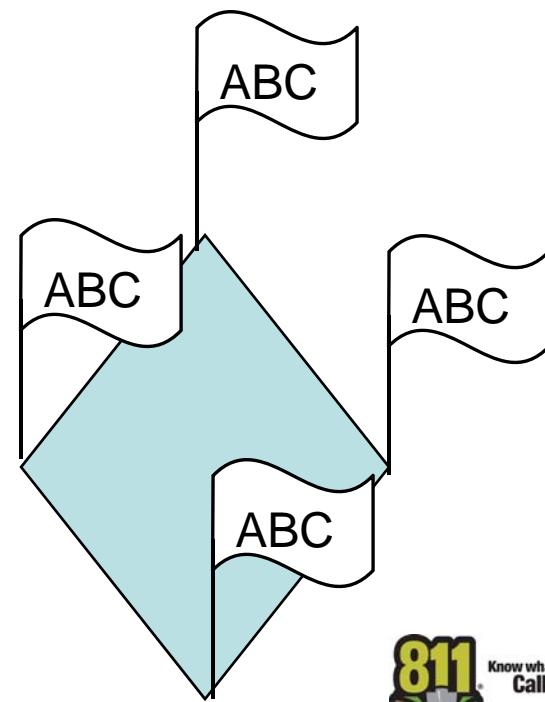
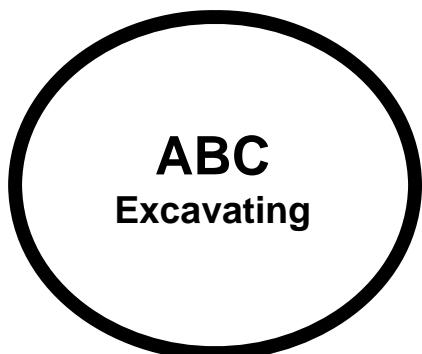
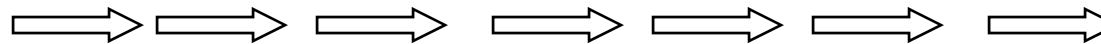
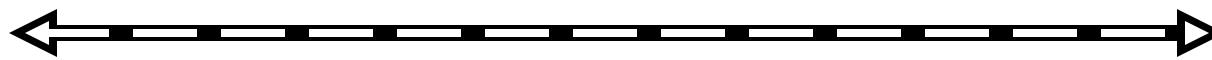
- **White lining proposed dig sites that will follow a single path or trench shall be marked using white lines &/or arrows and located for twenty (20) feet on either side of the white line. It is important to identify the starting & ending points.**



Identification of White Lining Excavator

- **Each excavator, when white lining, shall be identified by labeling the white line area with the excavator's name or the applicable locate ticket number or both.**

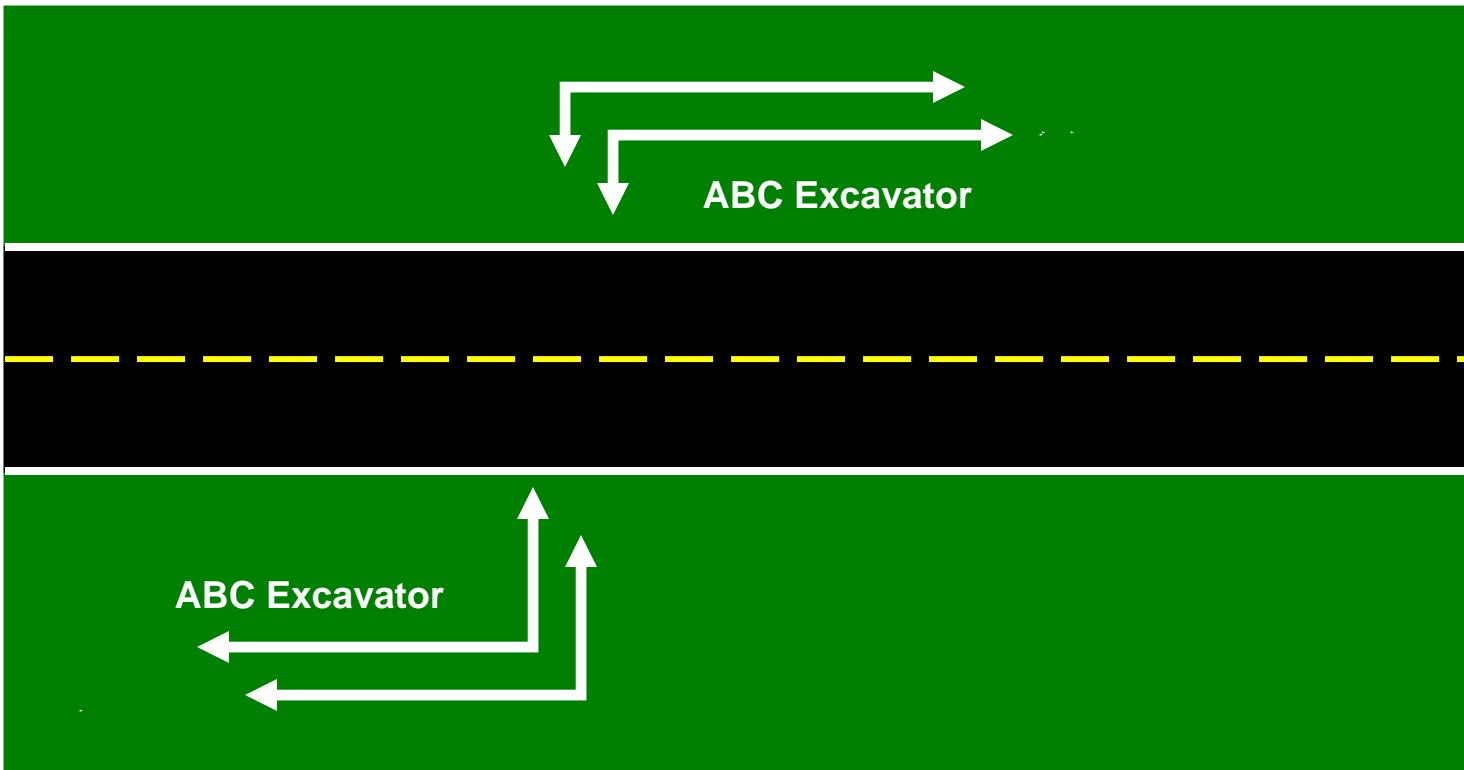
White Lining Examples



White Lining on Roadways

- No white paint should be placed on any road way due to possible confusion with DOT road markings
- White paint can be placed up to the edge of the road and again on the opposite side of the road to indicate the path of excavation

White Lining near roadways



Exceptions to White Lining

- Any large project so designated in accordance with GPSC Rule 515-9-4.13
- Any jobsite that can be described with Sufficient Particularity as defined by UPC and required by GUFPA
- Emergency Locate requests

Utility Owner Responsibilities

- **What if an excavator fails to verbally or physically white line?**
 - Locate the area requested on the Locate Request
 - Respond to PRIS using code 2D - Marked with exceptions: Ticket should have been white-lined but was not
 - Report failure to white line as a probable violation to the PSC

REMEMBER!!

- Use water-based paint for white lining
- White lining does not guarantee your locate request will be marked prior to the 48 hours required by law
- You still must check PRIS and if all utilities have responded with “marked” or “clear no facilities” then excavation can begin prior to the 48 hours



Education Materials

- Can be found at www.gaupc.com
- PSC RULE 515-9-4.14
- UPC Sufficient Particularity Document
- Marking Standards Power Point Presentation

Contact your UPC Liaison for more info.

- Region 1 & 2
 - Becky Creech: 404-375-6209
- Region 3 & 4
 - Holly Files: 404-538-6648
- Region 2 & 5
 - Mike Joyner: 404-245-5813
- Region 6 & 3
 - Terry McLaurin: 770-476-6023
- Region 7
 - Fiona Bowen: 404-444-3606

