

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO PRACTICE 4-4**

Review Committee Summary & Recommendation

The Review Committee determined 4 business model types exist in the Damage Prevention Industry to provide efficient, safe, accurate and timely locates:

1. Operators who choose to locate utilities “In House” whereas the Operator utilizes company employees to locate facilities.
2. Operators who choose to outsource locating to 3rd party utility locating firms who locate multiple utilities – “Single Locator” as referenced in Best Practice 4.4.
3. Operators who choose to outsource locating to 3rd party utility locating firms who locate only for their company; often referred to as “Dedicated Locating Service.”
4. Operators who choose a hybrid solution of “In House”, “Single Locator” and “Dedicated Locating Services.”

The Committee acknowledges there are benefits to each of the aforementioned business practices, however, no known data nor case studies exist to claim “Single Locator” as the “Best Practice” for the entire industry. Therefore, the Review Committee recommends removing Best Practice 4.4 Single Locator in its’ entirety.

Respectfully,

Best Practice 4.4 Single Locator Review Committee

**4.4 Single Locator**

**Practice Statement:**

A single locator is used for multiple facilities.

**Practice Description:**

This practice is employed when determined to be advantageous by the facility owner/operator. The use of a single locator to mark multiple facilities may provide several advantages to both the facility and the excavating communities. These advantages can include the following:

- More responsive service to the excavation community
- Better communication with the excavating community (fewer points of contact)
- Improved safety as a result of less traffic on the road
- Improved worker safety
- Reduced environmental impact

- Maps of multiple facilities

Note: this best practice does not suggest that all facilities be located by a single locator, but rather that conditions exist in which locating multiple facilities with a single locator will reduce the likelihood of errors and resulting damage (e.g., multiple facilities with the same owner or multiple facilities that are marked with the same or similar color codes). This practice has been employed by a facility owner in Michigan to enhance safety. The use of a single locator to locate multiple facilities is analogous to the use of a one call center to handle locate requests from excavators. The use of a one call center allows locate requests for multiple facilities at an excavation site to be issued through a single point of contact, simplifying communications. The use of a single locator to carry out locate requests for multiple facilities further simplifies communications, with fewer links needed between excavator and locator.