

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO PRACTICE 5-8 (*Redline follows*)**

**5.8 Positive Response**

**Practice Statement:**

The 811 Center notifies the underground facility owner/operator of the proposed excavation area within the time specified. The underground facility owner/operator notifies the excavator/contractor of the status of the ticket by providing an electronic positive response through the 811 center.

**Practice Description:**

Once a facility owners/operator marks the location of existing facilities in the proposed excavation area or determines that excavation or demolition is not in conflict with any of its existing underground facilities, it notifies the excavator of the status of the ticket by appropriate response code through the 811 center's positive response system. In addition to positive response, additional communication may be made by any reasonable manner including, but not limited to, face-to-face communications, phone, or other electronic means.

The excavator reviews positive response from the notified owner/operators on the ticket before beginning excavation. If an excavator identifies or has knowledge of the existence of an unmarked underground facility, the excavator notifies the 811 center that a conflict exists. Better communication between the excavator and the facility owner/operator is required as an area of excavation becomes more crowded with new underground facilities.

When the excavator makes the request to the 811 center, the excavator is informed which facility owners/operators will be notified. The excavator reviews all positive responses and compares these to the list of all owner/operators notified on the ticket prior to beginning excavation. Upon review, the excavator notifies the 811 center of any discrepancy between the positive responses and the field conditions.

**References:**

- Existing state laws, including California, Maryland, Nevada, and others
- Existing operating procedure for various one call centers (over 40 participating states or 811 centers)

**REDLINE MODIFICATIONS TO 5-8 BELOW**

**5.8 Positive Response**



**Practice Statement:**



The 811 center notifies the underground facility owner/operator of the proposed excavation area within the time specified. The owner/operator notifies the excavator/contractor of the status of the ticket by providing an electronic positive response through the 811 center, either 1) identifies for the excavator the facility's tolerance zone at the work site by marking, flagging, or other acceptable methods; or 2) notifies the excavator that no conflict situation exists. This takes place after the 811 center notifies the underground facility owner/operator of the planned excavation and within the time specified by state/provincial law.

**Commented [SL1]:** Blue font indicates changes to Best Practice that were reviewed and accepted during August 2, 2023 Committee meeting.

**Practice Description:**

Once a facility owner/operator marks the location of existing facilities in the proposed excavation area or determines that excavation or demolition is not in conflict with any of its existing underground facilities, it notifies the excavator of the status of the ticket by appropriate response code through the 811 center's positive response system, usually ideally "marked" or "clear". that no conflict exists and that the excavation or demolition area is "clear." In addition to positive response, additional communication may be made by any reasonable manner including, but not limited to, face-to-face communications, phone or phone message, facsimile or other electronic means, posting at the excavation or demolition area, or marking the excavation or demolition area.

The excavator reviews positive response from the notified owner/operator on the ticket before beginning excavation. If an excavator identifies or has knowledge of the existence of an unmarked underground facility and has received an "all clear", a "no conflict clear", a prudent the excavator notifies the 811 center will attempt to communicate that a conflict does indeed exist, and the locator will make marking these facilities a priority before excavation begins. Better communication between the excavator and the facility owner/operator is required as an area of excavation becomes more crowded with new underground facilities.

"Positive response" means an automated system that allows excavators, locators, operators, and other interested parties to determine the status of a locate request until excavation or demolition is complete. is a term used to describe the two types of action taken by a facility owner/operator after it receives notification of intent to excavate. The facility owner/operator must 1) mark its underground facilities with stakes, paint, or flags; or 2) notify the excavator that the facility owner/operator has no underground facilities in the area of excavation. This process allows the excavator to begin work in a timely manner.

This action allows the facility owner/operator to communicate the status of the 811 ticket to the excavator through the 811 center as available.

When the excavator makes the request to the 811 center, the excavator is told informed which facility owners/operators will be notified. The excavator reviews all positive responses and compares these to the list of all owner/operators notified on the ticket prior to beginning excavation. Upon review, the excavator notifies the 811 center of any discrepancy between the positive responses and the field conditions, logs these facilities on a job sheet and identifies which facility owner/operators have responded by marking and which have cleared the area. When a facility owner/operator does not

**TR 2022-06 – Excavator Role in Positive Response**

Task Team Chair – Erich Metzger

*Proposals Approved by Task Team – September 12, 2023*



~~respond by marking or clearing, it may indicate that the facility owner/operator did not receive a locate notice or that the 811 center's contact information for that facility owner/operator may be incorrect, incomplete, or corrupt (which could result in calamity). When the excavator has obtained all required information, the excavation can commence with confidence that the safety of the work crew and the public at large has been considered.~~

**References:**

- Existing state laws, including California, Maryland, Nevada, and others
- Existing operating procedure for various 811 centers (over 40 participating states or 811 centers)