

SAFETY MEMO

November 16, 2020 – Underground Utilities- Hidden Risks! (2 of 2)



Did you know?

Private Underground Utility Location and Marking Services

The location and marking services offered by the provinces or state do not include all the services that are in the private part of a construction site, for example the interior of a building under renovation.

In order to locate private underground services, it may be necessary to hire a private company specialized in the field. In France, with the absence of the free service, this is the only option to locate underground services.

There are several technologies and equipment available; radiodetection, radiosonde, ground radar and ground penetrating radar. These techniques can detect both wires, steel conduits, non-metallic items as well as air voids.

The customer's as-built site plans should be used as a reference to direct the locator to the existing underground facilities and the choice of which technique to use depending on the objectives.

The planned excavation area will be scanned in a grid to identify the service conduits. This mapping ensures that the excavation can be performed with the confidence that all underground services have been located and marked.

A large area network scan can be completed in just a few hours. The costs associated with this check are minimal compared to the costs and risks to the health and safety of workers caused by a breakdown in service. Localization of services is an investment.

Recommendations

- Consult local legislation for laws relating to locating underground utilities. In some jurisdictions (a large part of Canada in particular) locating underground utilities is required by law prior to any ground disturbance.
- Hire a private utility location and marking company in order to have confidence that all underground utilities have been marked.



Figure 2: Example of a ground radar.

- Call Before You Dig. Contact the services below before conducting projects which require ground disturbance :

Quebec: Info-Excavation
<https://www.info-ex.com/en/>

Ontario: Ontario One Call
<https://www.ontarioonecall.ca/>

Manitoba: Click Before You Dig
<http://clickbeforeyoudigmb.com/>

Saskatchewan: Sask 1st Call
<https://www.sask1stcall.com/>

Alberta: Alberta One Call
<http://albertaonecall.com/>

British Columbia: BC 1C
<https://www.bc1c.ca/>

Illinois: 811
<https://www.illinois1call.com/>

Pennsylvania: 811
<https://www.pa1call.org/>

