



City of
Tega Cay, South Carolina

www.tegacaysc.org

7725 Tega Cay Drive
Tega Cay, SC 29708

Phone: 803.548.3512
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City of Tega Cay

Utility Line Protection and Excavation Policy

For Contractors Performing Boring or Excavation in Public Rights-of-Way

Purpose

This policy outlines mandatory procedures for contractors conducting boring, trenching, or excavation work in the City of Tega Cay to protect public water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, and other pertinent utilities (e.g., gas, electric, cable, internet). It supplements SC811 requirements and aims to minimize service disruptions, infrastructure damage, and public safety hazards.

1. Line Locating Responsibility

- The City of Tega Cay will mark water, sewer, and stormwater lines and structures in accordance with SC811 guidelines.
- Contractors are responsible for protecting these marks and must request a remark if:
 - Marks are no longer visible or have been disturbed, or
 - The marks appear inconsistent with visible infrastructure in the field.
- If a contractor observes a valve, manhole, hydrant, storm drain, or any other above-ground indicator of a possible utility line in or near the excavation area, and the line is not marked or the marking appears incorrect, the contractor must:
 - **Stop work immediately**, and
 - **Call the locator or the City** to verify or remark the area.
- **Contractors shall not dig or bore without a valid SC811 locate ticket and clearly visible utility markings.** Work must not proceed until the ticket has been updated, verified, and all required utilities have responded, regardless of the distance from the proposed bore path.

2. Tolerance Zone and Mechanical Excavation

- Per SC811 law, a 24-inch tolerance zone exists on either side of a marked utility line or structure.
- Within this zone, mechanical excavation is strictly prohibited until the line or structure is positively identified using an approved non-destructive method.



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3. Mandatory Spot Potholing of All Marked Lines and Structures

- Contractors must **pothole and visually verify** the location and depth of all marked water, sewer, and stormwater lines and structures within the defined work area, **even if they are located more than 10 feet from the proposed bore path.**
- This includes stormwater infrastructure such as pipes, culverts, catch basins, inlets, and manholes.
- If a marked utility cannot be located through potholing, the contractor must **stop work immediately** and contact the City or utility owners to remark or reassess before continuing.
- **If you see a marking that does not look correct, especially near visible infrastructure such as a valve, manhole, hydrant, or storm drain, call the locator or the City to verify before proceeding.**

4. Required Exposure Method

- Contractors must use **hydro-excavation** to expose all City-marked water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure.
- The use of shovels, picks, or other manual/mechanical tools is **prohibited** for daylighting City utilities due to prior damage caused by improper excavation.

5. SC811 Ticket Compliance

- Contractors are strictly prohibited from beginning any excavation or boring work without:
 - A valid and active SC811 locate ticket, and
 - Confirmation that all applicable utility lines have been properly marked or cleared.
- Tickets must be **on-site and accessible** at all times during work.
- Work performed under **expired, incomplete, or unmarked** tickets may result in permit revocation and immediate shutdown.
- **Contractors cannot dig or bore without an approved and fully marked SC811 ticket, NO exceptions.**

6. Damage Reporting and Liability

- Any damage or contact with water, sewer, or stormwater infrastructure must be reported to the appropriate City department immediately.



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- The contractor will be held financially responsible for:
 - Emergency repairs
 - Infrastructure restoration
 - Reimbursement for City labor, equipment, and materials used in the response

7. Permit Violations and Work Suspension

- Non-compliance with this policy will be considered a violation of the encroachment permit.
- Violations may result in:
 - Immediate suspension of work
 - Revocation of the current permit
 - Denial of future permits

8. Additional Risk Mitigation Measures

- **Pre-Construction Meeting:** Contractors are encouraged to schedule a pre-job meeting with City staff before beginning any boring activity.
- **Daily Bore Logs:** Maintain and submit bore path logs upon request.
- **GPS Bore Tracking:** Use of GPS bore path monitoring is encouraged in utility-dense or high-risk areas.
- **City Observation:** The City may require on-site staff presence during high-risk crossings.

Questions and Contact

To request re-marks, report damages, or ask questions about this policy, contact:
City of Tega Cay (803)548-3512