

Miss Utility Information and Requirements

Overview

Annotated Code of Maryland Public Utilities Article Title XII

Title XII relates to the utility damage prevention of underground facilities and is commonly referred to as the “Miss Utility Law”

MDOT SHA was included as an Owner-Member in Miss Utility Law
October 1, 2010

The Miss Utility Law was revised on March 15, 2021

Miss Utility Law Summary:

- Expands the scope of the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention laws to apply to an owner or lessee of a private residence who performs an excavation or demolition on the land of the private residence
- Establishes the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority and the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Education and Outreach Fund

Miss Utility Law Summary Continued:

- Authorizes the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and MDOT's Transportation Business Units (TBUs) to collect certain fees.
- Establishes a “One-Call” system (Miss Utility) and requires owners of underground facilities to be a member of Miss Utility including MDOT and MDOT's TBUs
- Requires a person/company that intends to perform an excavation/ demolition in the State to contact Miss Utility to create a ticket
- Establishes a set valid ticket timeframe and tickets; both excavation/demolition and design

Miss Utility Law Summary Continued:

- Establishes a working agreement regarding the schedule for marking underground facilities on State property
- State agencies must provide a response back to Miss Utility within a set timeframe on all excavation/demolition and design tickets
- Person(s)/Companies may only excavate/demolish upon clearance from the Miss Utility Call Center. Person(s)/Companies that begin without clearance –“dig at their own risk”
- Ticket types: Excavate/Demolish and Nonexcavation

MDOT SHA will invoice contractors/individuals the following fee per ticket:

- \$27.00 on tickets coded as **“Clear / No Conflict.”**
- \$35.00 on tickets coded as **“Marked.”**
- **“Updated”** Tickets are charged as:
 - **“Clear / No Conflict”** are \$0.00, No Charge
 - **“Remarked”** are \$15.00
- \$0.00 on tickets coded as **“Cancelled.”**

Title XII allows Governmental entities to charge locating fees.

Homeowners who perform their own digs/demolitions are exempted from locating fees.

The following are exempted from MDOT SHA locating fees:

- Contractors that perform construction or maintenance work under MDOT SHA Contracts
- Work performed by local towns, counties, or other municipalities

Questions should be directed to MDOT SHA's Miss Utility Hotline at 443-572-5264