



# **Risk Control** BULLETIN

By: Peter Kuchinsky II, Lead Risk Management Advisor

August 2017

## Changes in the One Call Underground Service Alert (USA) Law

All utilities that own underground lines (facility owners), or excavate around the underground lines of other facility owners (excavators), should be aware of significant changes that went into effect in 2017. These changes are especially important for ACWA JPIA members, as members can perform the activities of a facility owner and excavator, sometimes both on the same project.



- ◆ Delineation of the proposed excavation site is now **mandatory** to be marked in white by the excavator. If the delineation could be misinterpreted as a traffic or pedestrian control, the excavator shall use pink markings and notify the One Call Center that the delineation is in pink. (4216.2(a) & 4216 Definitions (d))
- ◆ Facility owners can, at their own discretion, choose not to locate and field mark until the area to be excavated has been delineated. (4216.2(a))
- ◆ All excavators must contact the One Call Center (DigAlert or USANorth) at least two working days, not including the date of notification, prior to digging. (4216.2 (b)). The day a ticket request is called in does not count as a working day.
- ◆ A working day is now defined as a week-day (M - F) from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for federal and state holidays as defined in Section 19853, or as otherwise posted on the Internet Web Site of the One Call Center. (4216 Definitions (v))
- ◆ Any temporary marking placed at the planned excavation location shall be clearly seen, functional, and considerate to surface aesthetics and the local community. An excavator shall check if any local ordinances apply to the placement of temporary markings. (4216.2(d))
- ◆ Excavation operations shall not begin until the excavator receives a response from all known facility owners within the delineated boundaries. (4216.2(g))
- ◆ If a ticket obtained by an excavator expires but work is ongoing, the excavator shall call into the One Call Center and get a new ticket, and wait a minimum of two working days not including the date of call in, before restarting excavation. All excavation shall cease during the waiting period. (4216.2(i))

| Color Code<br>for Marking Underground Utility Lines                                  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Electric                                  |
|  | Gas-Oil-Steam                             |
|  | Communication CATV                        |
|  | Potable Water                             |
|  | Irrigation, Reclaimed Water, Slurry Lines |
|  | Sewer                                     |
|  | Temporary Survey Markings                 |
|  | Proposed Excavation                       |

- ◆ A facility owner shall indicate with an "A" inside a circle the presence of any abandoned subsurface installations, if known, within the delineated area. The markings are to make an excavator aware that there are abandoned subsurface installations within that delineated work area. (4216.3(a)(1)(A)(iii)(C))
- ◆ If the field marks are no longer reasonably visible, an excavator shall notify the One Call center with a request for remarks that can be for all or a portion of the excavation. Excavation shall cease in the area to be remarked. If the delineation markings are no longer reasonably visible, the excavator shall re-delineate the area to be remarked. If remarks are requested, the facility owner shall have two working days, not including the date of request, to remark the subsurface installation. If the area to be remarked is not the full extent of the original excavation, the excavator shall delineate the portion to be remarked and provide a description of the area requested to be remarked on the ticket. The excavator shall provide a description for the area to be remarked that falls within the area of the original location request. (4216.3(b))
- ◆ The One Call Law requires an excavator to hand expose to the point of no conflict 24" on either side of the underground facility, plus half the diameter of the line if given by the facility owner, before using power equipment. (4216.4(a)(1))
- ◆ Any governing agency issued permit for digging will not be valid without a valid ticket number. (4216.9(a))
- ◆ The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board is hereby created under, and shall be assisted by the staff of, the Office of the State Fire Marshal. (4216.12(a)). The new Safe Excavation Board shall investigate possible violations of this article (4216.19(a)) after January 1, 2018.

Guidelines for safe excavation and mark out procedures can be obtained from the

USANorth ([www.usanorth.org](http://www.usanorth.org)/Northern California) or DigAlert ([www.digalert.org](http://www.digalert.org)/Southern California) websites. A copy of the new 2017 One Call Law, Government Code 4216 – 4216.24 can be found at <https://www.digalert.org/calaw17.html>.

Per Cal/OSHA regulations found in CCR 1541, only qualified persons (locators) shall perform subsurface installation locating activities, and all such activities shall be performed in accordance with the One Call Law found in California Government Code 4216 - 4216.24. In addition, employees who are involved in the excavation operation and exposed to excavation operation hazards (excavators), shall be trained in the excavator notification and excavation practices required by the One Call Law Government Code 4216 – 4216.24.

(With permission of DigAlert.)



### **H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Program**

The cut off date for this round of safety awards is **October 16, 2017**.

Submit your nomination to  
[tlofing@acwajpia.com](mailto:tlofing@acwajpia.com).

Nomination forms can be found on  
the JPIA's website at  
[http://www.acwajpia.com/filecabinet/rmnopw/Safety\\_Awards\\_Nomination.pdf](http://www.acwajpia.com/filecabinet/rmnopw/Safety_Awards_Nomination.pdf)

# Ergo Corner

## Suggested Job/Activity Hazard Analysis Lifting or Material Handling Exceeding 50 Pounds

NOISH recommends that repetitive lifting and materials handling should not exceed 51 pounds. Occasional lifts up to 80 – 90 pounds occur in the water industry, but involve an increased risk of injury (90 pound jack-hammers, bulk bagged materials, valves, etc.).

**Use the following checklist to determine the increased risk of injury.**

- |  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. Does the load, tool, or equipment to be moved/handled exceed 50 pounds?         | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 2. Material/tool/equipment/weight to be lifted? _____                              |            |           |
| 3. Is the load difficult to keep close to the body due to its shape, size, bulk?   | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 4. Is the footing or pathway unsafe? (uneven ground, slippery, sloped)             | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 5. Does lifting/handling the load require bending, twisting, or overhead reaching? | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 6. Does the task require more than four lifts to complete?                         | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 7. Will the task take more than one minute to complete?                            | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 8. Will the task require traveling a distance or carry exceeding 25 feet?          | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |

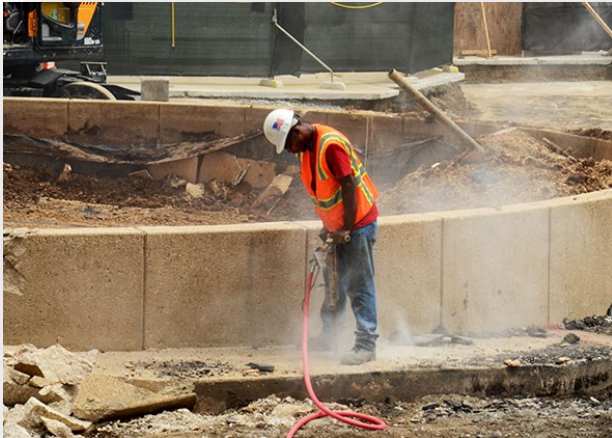
If three or more of the questions are answered **YES**, an increased risk of injury is possible. The following options will be implemented to prevent injury and reduce risk. (Consider the use of more than one to reduce the risk of injury.)

- ☐ Discussion of risks and methods to be implemented to avoid injury with workers
- ☐ Stretching before and after task
- ☐ Material handling devices or equipment available (forklift, backhoe, auto crane, etc.)
- ☐ Specialized tools, PPE, or equipment (manhole bar, gloves, etc.)
- ☐ Dolly, cart, or wheelbarrow to be used
- ☐ Two person lifts
- ☐ Breaking down the load/ordering smaller or lighter packages
- ☐ Increased housekeeping/provide clear pathway
- ☐ Extra time/breaks to be provided for task, rest, and recovery
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



# What's Wrong With This Picture?

Look at the photos below to identify what is wrong in the pictures. You may want to review these pictures during your next safety meeting.



# Nifty idea . . .

## Manhole Grate—Yorba Linda WD

The picture (right) shows a manhole grate that allows a cleaning hose into an open manhole while providing fall protection. It is being used by the Yorba Linda Water District Collection System crews.



Additional resources for manhole grate:

<http://www.epasales.com/products/Manhole-Supplies/1284990750>

[http://sewertooldpot.com/index.php?route=product/product&product\\_id=342](http://sewertooldpot.com/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=342)

[http://www.safeapproach.com/confined\\_space\\_portacover.html](http://www.safeapproach.com/confined_space_portacover.html)

# Answer - What's Wrong With This Picture?

All pictures show work tasks generating "visible dust". Activities such as jackhammering and saw cutting are being performed, most likely on silica containing materials. The employer should implement controls and work practices to reduce dust generation and worker exposures.

## Risk Management Staff

Carol Barake, Risk Management Program Manager  
 Robin Flint, Senior Risk Management Advisor  
 Keith Forbes, Senior Risk Management Advisor  
 Peter Kuchinsky II, Lead Risk Management Advisor  
 Terry Lofing, Administrative Assistant II  
 Lee Patton, Senior Risk Management Advisor  
 Chuck Wagenseller, Cost Estimator/RM Advisor  
 R. Scott Wood, Senior Risk Management Advisor