

CONSTRUCTION ISSUE FACT SHEET



Worker Safety and Utility Damage Prevention



The Problems:

Utility, Highway, and Commercial building contractors have faced increased safety problems with improperly marked locates, timeliness of locating utility lines, and the lack of participation by utility operators to attend statutorily required meetings for upcoming construction projects. These issues are not new, but with the influx of increased state and federal funding for infrastructure improvements – utility locating deficiencies have become an urgent priority. Now, more than ever, we need to know where underground utility facilities are located!

Legislative Solutions:

[HF2717/SF2723](#) prioritizes worker and public safety by improving utility locates and project communication. Specifically, AGC supports amending the excavation notice system laws (MN Statutes 216D) to add contractor protections, improve the quality of utility mapping, and allow for contractor recourse when they face downtime due to negligence by a utility. AGC is also working with the MN Office of Pipeline Safety and other interested parties to educate members on rights and responsibilities under current law.

Proposed Legislation:

- Statutorily define “locate” to guarantee that contractors have the most accurate knowledge of critical underground facilities.
- Increase collaboration and participation in the planning process to ensure that all stakeholders are active participants.
- Require the installation of GPS on newly installed, improved, or repaired facilities for improved planning and accurate locates.
- Establish a process to file and track complaints or deficiencies for all stakeholders to improve metrics for continuous improvement in locating underground facilities

**Laws written
nearly 40 years
ago need to be
updated to match
today’s safety
standards!**

**It’s not a matter of if a
tragic accident happens.
It’s a matter of when.”**

- John Hass, Veit & Company



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Get Involved/Stay Informed

Get involved by joining the [AGC Worker Safety & Utility Damage Prevention Subcommittee](#) or the [AGC Legislative Committee](#)! Sign-up at agcmn.org under “Safety” or “Advocacy.”