



Patent # US 6,941,890,B1

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Industry Statistics for Underground Utility Damages

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA), utilizing its Damage Incident Reporting Tool (DIRT), has compiled data on underground utility damage throughout the United States. Below are the relevant statistics in the Northeast Region, (Region 1). Percentages are noted indicating Region 1's percentage of incidents compared to the national totals. Statistics only represent those incidents actually reported and do not include incidents or damage that goes unreported.

- 1.) According to 2010 reports, of all accidents reported, 25% were due to poor locating practices, 38% were due to poor excavation practices and 32% were due to the fact that no notification was made.

M.U.U.D.S offer additional locating information to aid excavators in discovery, complement locators and help prevent those who dig without notifying 811 from digging without notification.

- 2.) There were 115,232 incidents reported nationwide in 2010. While it was a 2% decline from the prior year, the CGA cautions that this decline may be attributed to a decline in construction activity.

M.U.U.D.S raise awareness of the location of underground utilities either during excavation or when people dig without notifying.

- 3.) 12% of all damages nationwide, a total of 14,011, occur in the Northeast region which includes all of New York State and the New England states.

M.U.U.D.S embrace the national standard established by the CGA creating a uniform standard in every state.

- 4.) 84% of the incidents in the Northeast are caused by contractors/developers. Of those incidents, 75% were caused by backhoes or trenchers and 15% were caused during the use of hand tools.

M.U.U.D.S aids in incident prevention by providing a physical pathway for the excavator and laborers to discover the utility carefully.

- 5.) 42% of the accidents in the Northeast were to water/sewer lines and 16% were to energy/communications

MUUDS color-coded markers help identify utility lines by the color designated by the CGA and provide a depth guide to their underground position.

NYS Laws governing the procedures to be followed for protection of underground utilities are covered under:

[NY Code - Article 36 - Protection of Underground Facilities §764 ¶ 2](#)

“Prior to any excavation or demolition, the excavator shall verify the precise location of the underground facilities in a manner set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the public service commission pursuant to section one hundred nineteen-b of the public service law.”

[NY Code - Section 119-B: Protection of underground facilities ¶ 6.](#)

“The commission shall have power, through the inspectors or duly authorized employees of the department, to examine and inspect excavation and demolition methods used by any person within fifteen feet in any direction of any underground pipeline used for conveying natural gas or of any underground telephone, electric, steam or water facility used for providing service and to order compliance with the standards for excavation and demolition near underground facilities contained in regulations adopted by the commission to implement and carry out the requirements of article thirty-six of the general business law established for the protection of underground facilities.”

[NYS Code Rule 753-3.6 Verification of underground facilities.](#)

“Where an underground facility has been staked, marked or otherwise designated by the operator and the tolerance zone overlaps with any part of the work area, or the projected line of a bore/directional drill intersects the tolerance zone, the excavator shall verify the precise location, type, size, direction of run and depth of such underground facility or its encasement. Verification shall be completed before the excavation or demolition is commenced or shall be performed as the work progresses.

b. The verification of underground facilities furnishing gas or liquid petroleum products shall be accomplished by the excavator by exposing the underground facility or its encasement to view by means of hand dug test holes at one or more points where the work area and tolerance zone overlap, or more points as designated by the operators of such facilities.

c. The verification of underground facilities other than those furnishing gas or liquid petroleum products shall be performed at one or more points for each such underground facility as may be required by the operator. Verification shall be accomplished by exposing the underground facility or its encasement to view by hand dug test holes or by other means mutually agreed to by the excavator and operator.”

Benefits of [M.U.U.D.S](#) Underground Markers

- 1.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) help contractors comply with the conditions of code rule 753 in observing the tolerance zone.
- 2.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) help municipalities avoid costly damages and service interruption for residents and businesses.
- 3.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) help insurance companies identify cause and origins of claims for damaged utilities.
- 4.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) help avoid workers compensation cases by providing a physical pathway to an underground utility.
- 5.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) provide a long-term solution to utility demarcation. Noting the location of a [M.U.U.D.S](#) marker on a drawing can expedite the location of an underground utility.
- 6.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) help private developments, college campuses and business parks where utility companies are not required to provide location services.
- 7.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) are hidden underground preserving the aesthetic integrity of the environment and your community.
- 8.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) complement existing State requirements by providing information that is not provided by municipalities or utility companies for liability reasons.
- 9.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) complement the 811 system by proving a verifiable mark in the field after the location has been made.
- 10.) [M.U.U.D.S](#) offer exponentially greater value than the cost by helping identify utilities before accidents occur.