



# Excavation Damage

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# Who does 811 protect? Damage Prevention Stakeholders



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- Excavator
- Facility Operator
- Public
- Locators
- Government Officials
- Emergency Responders
- One Call Center

# Good News South Dakota!

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- Gas excavation damages didn't kill anyone in 2024!
- Also did not cause any major events or explosions.



# **Bad News! - 457 Gas Excavation Damages in 2024 (South Dakota)**

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- **24% One Call Practices**
  - No notification made to 811
  - Excavator dug after ticket expired
- **16% Locating Practices**
  - Locator error in marking facility – either not marked, marked incorrectly, or not marked completely
- **58% Excavation Practices**
  - Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks
  - Excavator dug prior to verifying marks
- **2% Other**



## Excavation Damages Summary 2024

Operator	Number of Excavation Tickets	Total Damages	Notification Issues	Excavation Issues	Locating Issues	Other	Damages / 1000 locates
Crooks	534	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Garretson	315	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Humboldt	568	1	0	1	0	0	1.76
MDU	26064	142	54	72	16	0	5.45
MEC	44711	205	36	133	33	3	4.59
NorthWestern	23750	93	18	48	26	1	3.92
Watertown	4175	17	2	9	0	6	4.07
<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<b>100117</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.57</b>

	Number of Excavation Tickets	Number of Excavation Damages	Number of One-Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient	Number of Locating Practices Not Sufficient	Number of Excavation Practices Not Sufficient	Number of Other	Ratio - Damage per 1000 tickets
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>103,757</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4.12</b>
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>110,405</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4.43</b>
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>107,092</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4.82</b>
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>105,915</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4.99</b>
<b>2019 Total</b>	<b>92,849</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>86,505</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>93,530</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>2016 Total</b>	<b>87,179</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>2015 Total</b>	<b>89,558</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3.8</b>

No notification made to One Call Center / 811	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket	Excavator dug prior to valid start date / time	Excavator dug after valid ticket expired	Excavator provided incorrect notification information
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
33	6	5	9	1
26	1	3	6	0
17	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	1
<b>77</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>

Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks	Excavator failed to protect / shore / support facilities	Improper backfilling practices	Marks faded or not maintained	Improper excavation practice not listed above
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0
14	34	4	1	10	9
45	65	6	1	9	7
5	20	6	3	14	0
0	4	1	0	1	3
<b>64</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>

Facility not marked due to abandoned facility	Facility not marked due to Incorrect facility records / maps	Facility not marked due to Locator error	Facility not marked due to No response from operator / contract locator	Facility not marked due to Incomplete marks at damage location	Facility not marked due to Tracer wire issue	Facility not marked due to Unlocatable facility	Facility marked inaccurately due to Abandoned facility	Facility marked inaccurately due to Incorrect facility records / maps	Facility marked inaccurately due to Locator error	Facility marked inaccurately due to Tracer wire issue
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	7	0	1	0	0	0	2	5	0
0	3	6	1	3	2	2	0	1	12	3
0	2	12	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>

24 excavating companies involved with 36% of the damages (each had 4 or more damages)

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- 75% excavation practice
  - 11% notification issues
  - 14% locate issues

15 excavating companies involved with 28% of damages

6 excavating companies involved with 15% of the damages – (9 or more)



# 811 Excavation Damage Enforcement

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- South Dakota has inadequate rating
- Importance of Using the Enforcement Process – the public is represented by enforcement of the law.
- Only **11** gas damages had complaints filed in 2024.
- **None** of the excavators involved with 5 or more damages had complaints filed. **Why?**





# Excavators at Fault



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- Site Works – 15
  - Pro Underground – 12
  - Underground Solutions – 11
  - Runge – 9
  - Heavy Constructors – 8
  - Soukup – 8
  - Zacharias – 7
  - First Rate – 7
  - Alliance Construction – 7
  - RCS -7
  - ASCO - 7

# **§192.614 Damage prevention program**

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- (a) ... each operator of a buried pipeline must carry out, in accordance with this section, a written program to prevent damage to that pipeline from excavation activities. For the purposes of this section, the term "excavation activities" includes excavation, blasting, boring, tunneling, backfilling, the removal of aboveground structures by either explosive or mechanical means, and other earthmoving operations.
- (b) An operator may comply with any of the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section through participation in a public service program, such as a one-call system, but such participation does not relieve the operator of responsibility for compliance with this section. However, an operator must perform the duties of paragraph (c)(3) of this section through participation in a one-call system,

# §192.614 Damage prevention program (cont.)

(c) The damage prevention program required by paragraph (a) of this section must, at a minimum:

(1) Include the identity, on a current basis, of persons who normally engage in excavation activities in the area in which the pipeline is located.

(2) Provides for notification of the public in the vicinity of the pipeline and actual notification of the persons identified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section of the following as often as needed to make them aware of the damage prevention program:

(i) The program's existence and purpose; and

(ii) How to learn the location of underground pipelines before excavation activities are begun.

(3) Provide a means of receiving and recording notification of planned excavation activities.

(4) If the operator has buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity, provide for actual notification of persons who give notice of their intent to excavate of the type of temporary marking to be provided and how to identify the markings.

(5) Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins.

(6) Provide as follows for inspection of pipelines that an operator has reason to believe could be damaged by excavation activities:

(i) The inspection must be done as frequently as necessary during and after the activities to verify the integrity of the pipeline; and

(ii) In the case of blasting, any inspection must include leakage surveys.

# Locates

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- Locators work for the facility operator.
- Errors in locating are responsibility of the operator.
- What are you doing about locating errors?
  - OQ qualification revoked
  - Training
  - Performance evaluation /discipline actions
- Don't be the cause of excavation damage!
- Operators are responsible for timely and accurate locates.

# How Can We Do Better?



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- Communicating – Effectively and Timely
- Collaborating - Partnering and Supporting
- Education - Employee and Public
- Enforcement of the 811 laws – including filing complaints and requesting penalties as appropriate
- Technology – embrace the opportunities
- Analysis of data to drive improvement – incorporate data into DIMP

# **Working with Excavators – 2025 Challenge for South Dakota**

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- If an excavator has caused damage on your facilities more than once, document all communication with that excavator and all efforts to ensure that damage doesn't continue to occur.





# **April Excavation Damages**

- PHMSA wants to follow-up with all excavation damages due to “no locate ticket” in the month of April.

# **One Call Notification**

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- How can you ensure people know to call 811?





# IDEAS?



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- What ideas do you have for reducing excavation damages?



**Must Report All  
Facility  
Damages to  
811**

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SDCL 49-7A-12



**Release of Gas  
or Liquid– **Call**  
**911** and **811****

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Flammable, toxic, or  
corrosive

SDCL 49-7A-12



# Question?

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Thank you!