

# Excavation Monitoring and Observation for Damage Prevention

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## Contents

	Page
1 Scope .....	1
2 Definitions .....	1
3 Flow Diagram .....	2
4 Decision Nodes .....	2
4.1 Decision Node 1—Is Additional Information Required? .....	2
4.2 Decision Node 2—Office Analysis and Resolution .....	3
4.3 Decision Node 3—Site Visit Resolution .....	3
4.4 Decision Nodes 4 and 5—Excavation Proximity to Pipeline .....	3
4.5 Decision Node 6—Ticket Closure .....	4
5 Tasks .....	4
5.1 Task A—Close Ticket .....	4
5.2 Task B—Secure Additional Information .....	5
5.3 Task C—Conduct Site Visit .....	5
5.4 Task D—Perform Locate .....	5
5.5 Task E—Excavation Monitoring .....	5
5.6 Task F—Excavation Observation Not Required .....	5
5.7 Task G—Excavation Observation .....	6
Figure 1 Flowchart—Excavation Monitoring and Observation .....	7
Bibliography .....	8



# Excavation Monitoring and Observation for Damage Prevention

## 1 Scope

The scope of this technical report is to provide a consistently applied decision making process for monitoring and observing of excavation and other activities on or near pipeline rights-of-way for “hazardous liquid” and “natural and other gas” transmission pipelines. The goal is to protect the public, excavation employees, and the environment by preventing damage to pipeline assets from excavation activities.

NOTE Pipeline operators are encouraged to refer to the latest edition of Common Ground Alliances “CGA Best Practices” for additional guidance.

## 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

### 2.1

#### **activity**

Identified excavation [activity].

### 2.2

#### **excavation**

Disturbance or removal of dirt or subsurface debris from a specified area.

NOTE 1 Excavation can include the use of non-mechanized or mechanized equipment, or explosives.

NOTE 2 Specific definitions and requirements for excavation may be established by regulation and the user is encouraged to check with the applicable authorities (e.g. municipal, county, state, etc) as to any relevant details.

### 2.3

#### **excavation monitoring**

Oversight at regular intervals of the process to plan, request, design, approve, and excavate on or around pipelines to ensure the safe, effective completion with the desired results.

NOTE Excavation monitoring is commonly referred to or associated with Excavation Planning.

### 2.4

#### **excavation observation**

Active participation in the onsite excavation before, during and after activities cease to ensure proper completion of the agreed work in a safe, effective manner.

### 2.5

#### **locate**

To indicate the existence of a buried or otherwise obscured line or facility by establishing a mark through the use of stakes, paint, or some other customary manner that approximately determines the location of the line or facility.

### 2.6

#### **one-call center**

Entity in each state or territory that administers a system for their area of responsibility that can notify owners/operators of lines or facilities of proposed excavations.

NOTE 1 One-call provisions and laws vary by state and it is the operator's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all applicable one-call laws.