

**480.5 Damage to underground facility — report to operator.**

1. An excavator shall as soon as practical notify the operator when any damage occurs to an underground facility as a result of an excavation. The notice shall include the type of facility damaged and the extent of the damage. If damage occurs, an excavator shall refrain from backfilling in the immediate area of the underground facilities until the damage has been investigated by the operator, unless the operator authorizes otherwise.

2. If the damage results in an emergency, the excavator shall take all reasonable actions to alleviate the emergency including but not limited to the evacuation of the affected area. The excavator shall leave all equipment situated where the equipment was at the time the emergency was created and immediately contact the operator and appropriate authorities and necessary emergency response agencies.

[92 Acts, ch 1103, §5](#); [2019 Acts, ch 24, §104](#)