

***Effective August 1, 2022***

What this means to you

- Adds an “unplanned utility outage” to the definition of what qualifies for Emergency Excavation;
- Allows for electronic notice of emergency excavation requests (online entry of emergency tickets);
- Requires that an owner/operator when responding to an emergency excavation request must be informed within two (2) hours from the discovery of the need for an emergency excavation;
- Requires that an owner/operator to respond to an emergency notice as soon as practicable under the circumstances;
- Provides that emergency excavation notices are valid for as long as the emergency situation exists, and that the type of work and location must remain consistent with the work described in the emergency excavation notice;
- Adds Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of holidays for Louisiana 811.

Dig Law language

1749.12 (6) “Emergency” means any crisis situation which poses an imminent threat or danger to life, health, or property, or the situation is the result of an unplanned utility outage, requires immediate action, and immediate action is taken.

1749.13 B. (1) ...Holidays shall consist of the following: New Year’s Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Good Friday; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Eve; and Christmas Day, ~~or the days on which those holidays are observed by the state.~~

1749.15 A. The notice required pursuant to R.S. 40:1749.13 shall not apply to any person conducting an emergency excavation. Oral or electronic notice of the emergency excavation shall be given as soon as practicable to the regional notification center or each operator having underground utilities and facilities located in the area and, if necessary, emergency assistance shall be requested from each operator in locating and providing immediate protection to its underground utilities and facilities.

1749.15 B. The excavator shall ~~orally~~ certify in the notice required in Subsection A of this Section that the situation poses an imminent threat or danger to life, health, or property or is the result of an unplanned utility outage and requires immediate action and that the excavator or owner/operator has a crew on site.

1749.15 C. (1) Within two hours ~~four hours of the beginning of the emergency excavation~~ from the discovery of the need for an emergency excavation.

1749.15 C. (2) In the case of a gubernatorially declared state of emergency due to a ~~tropical storm or hurricane~~ weather or homeland security related event, within twelve hours of the beginning of the emergency excavation within the parishes to which the emergency declaration applies.

1749.15 D. The owner/operator of the underground utilities or facilities or submerged infrastructure shall respond to an emergency notice as soon as practical under the circumstances.

1749.15 E. Emergency excavation notices are valid for as long as the emergency situation exists. The type of work and location must remain consistent with the work described in the emergency excavation notice. If the type of work and location become inconsistent with the emergency excavation notice, then a new excavation notice is required.