

Effective January 2, 2022, a new amendment will be added to the LA Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law (Dig Law) with House Bill 69. There are requirements in the new law for both excavators and facility owners. The following statements summarize the requirements for facility owners and excavators:

POSITIVE RESPONSE (Requirement for FACILITY OWNERS):

Should an underground utility or facility operator determine that its underground facilities are not in conflict with the location of the request or determine that its underground facilities are not fully marked for locating purposes, a notification shall be sent to the excavator prior to the mark-by-time. A notification (electronic) to the regional notification center that generated the location request shall suffice for compliance with this section as it pertains to positive response.

Note: The use of a ticket management system which transmits the response to the excavator and by generating an electronic response to the LA 811 website will suffice for compliance.

What this means to you - As an owner/operator, if you have not marked your underground infrastructure after receiving a locate request, you will have to notify the excavator before the mark-by-time that they are clear of your facilities or the underground facilities have not been fully marked. You are free to use whatever method you would like to convey this message to an excavator (e.g. text, email or phone call). There is a Ticket Management System (Locator Ticket Management) in place for Louisiana 811 members that is free for your use and it will enable you to comply with this request. If you are interested in using the Locator Ticket Management platform, please email your request to info@laonecall.com. Include your name, contact telephone number, email address and district code.

WHITE LINING (Requirement for EXCAVATORS):

The excavator or demolisher shall provide the specific location for excavation or demolition with notice or physically mark the route or area of excavation or demolition using white paint, flags, stakes or similar means prior to submitting notice. For purposes of this section, any physical markings or electronic drawings identifying a specific location shall not exceed the actual area of excavation or demolition.

Note: The use of electronic notification through LA 811's on-line ticketing system (Next Gen) will suffice for compliance.

What this means to you - If you call in tickets to LA 811 you will have to physically white line on the ground showing exactly where your work will take place. If you use the on-line ticketing software identifying a specific area where you will be working, there is no physical white lining on the ground required.

For training on using the online ticket entry program, please send your request to feedback@laonecall.com and also provide your caller identification information.