

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1359  
(Representatives N. Johnson, Klein, Delmore)  
(Senators Andrist, Klein, Dotzenrod)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 49-07-01.1, 49-23-04, and 49-23-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the one-call notice system; and to provide a penalty.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-07-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**49-07-01.1. Violation of statute, commission order, or commission rule - Assessment of civil penalty.**

Any person who violates any statute, commission order, or commission rule which applies to matters within the authority of the commission under chapters 8-08, 8-09, 8-10, 24-09, 32-25, and 51-05.1, titles 60 and 64, and title 49 except for ~~chapter~~ chapters 49-22 and 49-23, shall, in addition to any other penalty provided, be subject to a civil penalty of not to exceed five thousand dollars. A violation occurring under chapter 49-23, in addition to any other penalty, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. The commission shall develop policies for the assessment of penalties under chapter 49-23 which will take into consideration the severity of damages and the conduct of the offender. The civil penalty may be compromised by the commission. The amount of the penalty when finally determined or agreed upon in compromise, if not paid, may be recovered in a civil action in the courts of this state.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-23-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**49-23-04. Excavation.**

1. Except in an emergency, an excavator shall contact the notification center and provide an excavation or location notice at least forty-eight hours before beginning any excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, unless otherwise agreed to between the excavator and operator. If an operator determines more time is necessary for location, the operator may request a twenty-four-hour extension of the excavation or location notice by notifying the notification center. The notification center shall notify the excavator of the extension. An excavation begins the first time excavation occurs in an area that was not previously identified by the excavator in an excavation notice. The notice must contain:
  - a. The name, address, and telephone number of the person making the notification;
  - b. The name, address, and telephone number of the excavator;
  - c. The date and time when excavation is scheduled to begin;
  - d. The depth of planned excavation;
  - e. The type and extent of excavation being planned, including whether the excavation involves tunneling or horizontal boring;
  - f. Whether the use of explosives is anticipated and any other information as may be required by the notification center; and

- g. The location of the excavation by any one or more of the following means:
    - (1) A specific street address;
    - (2) A reference to a platted lot number of record; or
    - (3) An identifiable roadway or roadway intersection; or
    - (4) A specific quarter section by section number, range, township, and county. In this case, the location shall be further described by coordinates measured in feet from the nearest one-fourth corner or section corner.
  - h. If the location of the excavation is too large or complex to be clearly and adequately identified by description in the location request, the excavator shall provide additional location information by one or more of the following means: white marking, project staking, geographic information system shape file, detailed drawing, map, or other appropriate means. An excavator may not be required to provide additional location information if the excavator plans a meeting with the affected operators at the location of the excavation before beginning any excavation, or if the notice given under this section includes a specific street address or reference to a platted lot number of record of the location of the excavation.
  - i. A request for location is limited to the area to be excavated during the twenty-one day period following the location request.
  - j. An excavator may begin excavation in a location if the location period has passed without notification of a requested extension or prior to the expiration of the location period if the excavator has received notice that all facilities have been located or cleared.
2. The notification center shall:
- a. Provide a toll-free telephone number and assign an inquiry identification number to each excavation notice and retain a record of all excavation notices received for at least six years.
  - b. Immediately transmit the information contained in an excavation notice to every operator that has an underground facility in the area of the proposed excavation.
  - c. Inform the persons giving notice of an intent to engage in an excavation activity the names of participating operators of underground facilities to whom the notice will be given.
  - d. Establish procedures for assuring positive response from the affected operator in all emergency excavation notices.
- 3.
- a. An operator, within forty-eight hours, or any extension of that period, after receiving an excavation notice from the center, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, unless otherwise agreed to between the excavator and operator, shall locate and mark or otherwise provide the approximate horizontal location of the underground facilities of the operator.
  - b. For purposes of this section, the approximate horizontal location of the underground facilities is a strip of land two feet [60.96 centimeters] on either side of the underground facilities. This subdivision does not apply to an underground facility to convey water.
  - c. When an operator cannot establish the exact location of the underground facility to convey water, the operator shall mark the location as accurately as possible and the excavator may proceed with caution. When excavation operations approach the estimated location of the underground facility to convey water, the exact location of the

facility must be determined by safe and acceptable means. The uncovered facility must be supported and protected to prevent damage.

- d. Markers used to designate the approximate location of underground facilities must follow the current color code standard used by the American public works association.
  - e. If the operator cannot complete marking of the excavation area before the excavation commencement time stated in the excavation notice, the operator shall promptly contact the excavator.
  - f. After facilities are located by an operator, an excavator shall notify the notification center if:
    - (1) The excavator postpones the excavation commencement time stated in the excavation notice by more than forty-eight hours, or any extension of that period, or cancels the excavation;
    - (2) The markings have been obliterated or obscured;
    - (3) Weather conditions have impeded visibility of the markings;
    - (4) The site shows evidence of recent excavation; or
    - (5) The excavator has other reason to believe the markings are incorrect or missing.
  - g. An excavator may not use a location more than ~~ten~~twenty-one days, or any extension of that period, after the planned excavation date unless the excavator has made previous arrangements with the operators affected.
  - h. If excavation has not occurred within the initial twenty-one days of the locate, the excavator shall request that the facility be relocated before excavating unless other arrangements have been made with the underground facility owner. Upon the third locate request at the same excavation site where no excavation has occurred after the initial two locates, the excavator is responsible for reasonable costs associated with relocating facilities in that location.
  - i. If a relocate request is made for an area which includes areas where excavation has been completed, a request for relocate must be modified from the original locate request to reflect only the area to be excavated during each subsequent twenty-one-day period, otherwise the excavator is responsible for reasonable costs associated with relocating facilities in the location.
  - j. If in the course of excavation the excavator is unable to locate the underground facility or discovers that the operator of the underground facility has incorrectly located the underground facility, the excavator shall promptly notify the operator or, if unknown, the one-call notification center.
  - ~~i.k.~~ A facility owner, excavator, or other person may not present or presume that an underground facility is abandoned, or treat an underground facility as abandoned, unless the facility has been verified as abandoned by reference to installation records or by testing. The notification center shall establish a method of providing personnel from a facility owner qualified to safely inspect and verify whether a facility is abandoned or inactive if necessary. An inactive facility must be considered active for purposes of this section.
  - l. An underground facility owner shall make all new facilities locatable.
4. If an excavation is being made in a time of emergency, all reasonable precautions must be taken to protect the underground facilities. In an emergency, the excavator shall give

notification in compliance with this chapter, as soon as practical, that an emergency exists. As soon as practical, each operator shall provide all location information that is reasonably available to the excavator.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-23-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**49-23-05. Precautions to avoid damage.**

To avoid damage to and minimize interference with underground facilities in and near the construction area, an excavator shall:

1. Maintain a clearance between an underground facility and the cutting edge or point of any mechanized equipment, considering the known limit of control of the cutting edge or point to avoid damage to the facility.
2. Provide support in a manner approved by the operator for underground facilities in and near the construction area, including backfill operations to protect the facilities. Backfill must be of a material equal to or better in both quality and quantity to the existing backfill.
3. Assume ownership of materials used to mark the facility, use reasonable efforts to maintain markings during excavation and when possible remove all tangible marking materials used to mark the facility.
4. Assume the cost of excavation to expose the facility unless otherwise indicated by owner of facility.
5. Conduct the excavation in a careful and prudent manner.
6. Properly manage spoil material to prevent shifting or falling material that could damage belowground facilities.

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Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1359.

House Vote:      Yeas 82              Nays 7              Absent 5

Senate Vote:    Yeas 45              Nays 0              Absent 2

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State