




Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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Please Respond to:
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MEMORANDUM NO. 786

TO: Pest Control Licensees

FROM: Michael J. Page, Chief 
Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control

DATE: September 26, 2005

SUBJECT: Notification of Underground Utilities Prior to Excavation

Pest control licensees should be aware that there is a law known as the "Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, Chapter 556, Florida Statutes, which regulates "excavation" that can impact underground utilities. Excavation is broadly defined in the statute as any man made cut, penetration, or disturbance of the soil. The statute requires pre-notification to prevent damage to underground utilities.

A cursory review of this statute indicates that pest control operations are **not** exempt from the notification requirements of this statute. Of particular interest are pest control activities such as drilling, trenching, bait station installation, etc. which may result in damage to unmarked underground utilities. Although there is no state agency that enforces the law, it can be enforced by local law enforcement agencies. Persons not providing the required notification or causing damage to underground utilities are liable for damage costs as well as civil penalties.

Anyone digging in Florida, other than homeowners on their own property, and certain other limited exemptions, is required to provide **2 business days notification** to allow for location and marking, if needed.

The notification and marking is accomplished by a non-profit corporation, Sunshine State One Call Of Florida (SSOCOF), which maintains a website at: <http://www.callsunshine.com/corp/index.html> and toll free number 1-800-432-4770. They can also provide education speakers and materials for no charge.

Please contact the Bureau office for additional information.



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