

In the Trenches

PROTECTING FACILITIES, FAMILIES AND THE FUTURE

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021



Know what's below.
Call **MISS DIG 811**
before you dig.



March 22 - 28, 2021

Leaders within the industry gather to bring education and training to the industry designed to improve damage prevention efforts, facilitate open discussions and improve safety in the excavating community.

What is Damage Prevention Week?

Damage Prevention Week™ brings together major industry stakeholders to discuss new ideas. Leaders have the invaluable opportunity to discuss ways to prevent damage to both underground and overhead infrastructure and improve safety in the excavating community.

Damage Prevention Week has only one agenda - to create a yearly forum focused on reducing damages and improving excavation safety. All views and stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to participate.

What Does my Registration include?

- Leading Practices on Cross Bore Safety Course
- CAMO Emergency Response Workshop
- Global GPR Congress
- Damage Investigation & Claims Resolution Workshop
- Utility Location with GPR Workshop
- Utility Locator Skills Enhancement Workshop

- Locating Theory Demystified Workshop

Many organizations are working with Infrastructure Resources to host events during Damage Prevention week. Visit the Damage Prevention Week website by clicking on the button below and follow each event page to get information on the offerings, schedules and registration information.

[Damage Prevention Week Registration](#)

Locate Demand Management

In August of 2019, the CEO of MISS DIG 811, Bruce Campbell, envisioned a workflow API between contract locators and the MISS DIG 811 Ticket Entry System and challenged his senior staff to propose a feasible



solution. This vision's precipitating event was the large number of '999' responses by major facility owners/operators and their contract locators that had brought about regulator action, particularly the Consumers Energy and USIC's non-responses to 20,000 tickets in both April and May 2019. The solution's sole intent was to educate and inform Michigan excavators of the probability of an efficient locate and provide them the opportunity to adjust their dig start if they were willing based on a color-coded system.

The first approach was initially proposing a way to integrate the Locator Workflow Management Systems for the major facility owners/operators in three stages: green, yellow, and red for the dig start date in Newtin Ticket Entry through an API. However, during this process, it was discovered no such workflow system existed, and most contract locators and facility owners/operators did not have data to indicate how many locate requests they could handle in one day. Thus, this turned out to be an unsuccessful approach.

In the second approach, MISS DIG 811 took it upon themselves to calculate the green, yellow and red states from the data they already have. Due to the implementation of Public Act 174 in 2014, Norfield Development Partners (NDP) built a report that looks for all positive responses on tickets entered through the MISS DIG 811

Phase Three: This phase calculated the average and weighted average of 999 percentages, 999 responses, and total ticket amounts for each county, every day, and every month for the last six years.

Phase Four: The conversion of each month's data was entered into a single document with all necessary weighted average 999 percentages, 999 responses, and total tickets for each county for every day of each month.

Phase Five: The final phase calculated the start and end data amount for the three states: green, yellow, and red. This was done by taking the 999 total weighted average and subtracting the 999 weighted average to calculate the base data, indicating how many tickets each county could handle.

1. The **green** state starts at zero tickets and ends at seventy percent of the base data calculation. (e.g., Green Start 0

System by Member Code for a date range not to exceed 31 consecutive days. In 2020 MISS DIG 811 requested that the original report be rebuilt to count the county's total positive responses instead of by Member Code. The data was collected in a **Five-Phase** approach:

Phase One: The data was pulled from the Response Stats By County Report for all tickets taken by the day, by month, and by year for the six years in CSV format and entered into an Excel sheet, which included all the available Positive Responses going back six years which coincided with the enactment date of Public Act 174 of April 1, 2014, when facility owners/ operators Posting Positive Response became required by law.

Phase Two: Calculated the percentages of 999's, the actual number of 999 responses, and the actual total ticket amounts by count and day for six years. The conversion of date to day of the month (e.g., April 1, 2014, to 1st Tuesday 2014) was completed in this phase as well.

- and Green End 7)
2. The **yellow** state starts at one over the **green** state end number and ends at eighty-eight percent of the database. (e.g., Yellow Start 8 and Yellow End 9)
 3. The **red** state starts at one over the **yellow** state end number and continues until all the tickets have been taken for the county for that day. (e.g., Red Start 10)

The color change for the varying states will be indicated to the excavator through the begin date box in the ticket entry screen. This update has been tested on the MISS DIG 811 test server and is now on the live servers of ticket entry as of February 18, 2021.



2021 Excavator Education Program Resources

Michigan's natural gas utilities, transmission pipeline operators, and MISS DIG 811 have teamed up as part of their Pipeline Public Awareness Programs to provide you with resources to promote safe digging practices. We recommend that you share this information with employees, sub-contractors involved in excavating, and office staff responsible for creating MISS DIG 811 requests.

The links included in this email provide information about safe excavation near pipelines to protect the public, your employees, and the environment.

- **MISS DIG 811 2021 Excavation Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines with PA 174-** Includes essential information about safe excavation near pipelines including how to recognize a gas or petroleum leak, what to do if you make contact or damage a pipeline, locate requests, dispute resolution, national pipeline mapping system, PA 174, and more. [Full Excavation Handbook w/ PA 174](#)
- **MISS DIG 811 2021 Excavation**

Condensed without PA 174-English- An abbreviated version of the Excavator Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines without PA

174. [Condensed Excavation Handbook-English](#)

- **MISS DIG 811 2021Excavation Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines Condensed without PA 174-Spanish-** An abbreviated version of the Excavator Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines in Spanish without PA
174. [Condensed Excavation Handbook-Spanish](#)



Public Act 174

Excavation Handbook For Gas & Liquid Pipeline

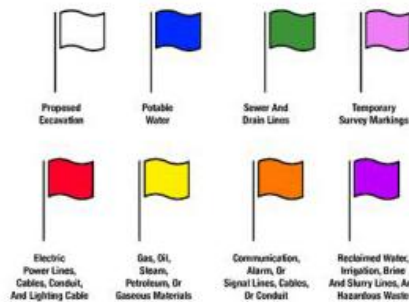


2021

MISS DIG 811



Know The Colors... The nationally adopted Uniform Color Code is used to mark the approximate location of underground facilities. The markings appear as flags, paint, or both.



Links to the **MISS DIG 811 2021 Excavation Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines** are also available from MISS DIG 811's website

at <https://www.missdig.org/education/excavator-education-program.html>

A brief e-survey will provide beneficial feedback for improvements to the **MISS DIG 811 2021 Excavation Handbook for Gas & Liquid Pipelines**. To access the survey, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The MISS DIG 811 Status Update Meeting

-Starting Monday, March 1st, at 10:00 AM-

The MISS DIG 811 Status Update Meetings will resume to it's weekly schedule starting Monday, March 1st at 10:00AM. The Status Update Meetings started as a COVID 19 response weekly review and has grown into an update on MISS DIG 811 locate request

demands, including a week-over-week and year-over-year comparison. We also discuss locating issues, damage issues, and it is an opportunity to discuss any pressing issues that may come up. As COVID concerns increase we will also address them as they affect MISS DIG 811 and our members. Weekly meetings will begin Monday, March 1st at 10:00 AM. To be added to the invite list contact MISS DIG 811 CEO/COO Bruce Campbell at: bcampbell@missdig811.org



Community Outreach: You are Invited !

We are inviting you and any employees you think would benefit to join us for a virtual meeting/conversation that would be personalized to your municipality or region. Any MISS DIG 811 related subjects/questions that you need more information about could be discussed! We want to find out what is & what is not working for you when it comes to the entire MISS DIG 811 process. We want to hear your ideas about how we could make MISS DIG 811 more effective & user-friendly. As always, our goal is to help dramatically reduce the number of damages to underground facilities to keep our citizens & infrastructure safe!

Here are a few topic ideas:

- Receiving & responding to tickets
- Emergency tickets
- Contact names/off-hours capabilities
- Positive response & locators
- Remote Member Access (RMA) accounts/full access account
- Placing tickets online: e-Locate vs Remote Ticket Entry (RTE)
- Issues regarding excavators and/or other facility owner/operators
- Gold Shovel Standard - what it is and how it can help your municipality
- Online training available for your team
- Public Act 174
- Your annual membership billing details



Feel free to choose any combination of the above topics or come up with your own! You choose the date & time! Please RSVP to a Community Outreach Specialist:

Colleen Goddard at cgoddard@missdig811.org or at 906-789-3083

Paul Harding at pharding@missdig811.org or at 248-370-6426

Full Ticket Search Add-On

Are you a contractor interested

in viewing tickets placed by your subcontractors? Do you work for an insurance agency looking to verify a claimant placed a MISS DIG 811 ticket? Whatever your reason, you can now search all MISS DIG 811 tickets placed in the last six years. Historically, interested parties would place a research request for a fee of \$72.45 and MISS DIG 811 would search a two-month window for any tickets that meet the requested criteria. The Research Department will continue to be a resource for homeowners and those who need occasional assistance, but members and frequent users of the MISS DIG 811 System can now have direct access.

For the equivalent of five two-month searches conducted by MISS DIG 811 (\$362.25), you can establish an account that allows you to search all tickets placed within the last six years. Additionally, for our members who have multiple employees in need of this feature, MISS DIG 811 is capping the number of billable full search accounts to five per company. This means that even if your organization requires ten Full Search accounts, you will pay no more than \$1,181.25.

Sign up for your Full Search Account today at

https://newtina.missdig.org/newtinweb/rma_signup.html After accepting the user agreement, select the Remote Member Access Search (RMAS) access type and enter “add on” for the member codes that access is being requested for in the final field. If you are not a member or associate member of MISS DIG 811 and would like to join to use this add on feature, please reach out to Member Services at 800-482-7161 or membersupport@missdig811.org

Learn how to prevent cross bores to save money and save lives!

Created to provide underground utility operators, contractors,

and service providers guidance for minimizing utility conflicts due to cross bore strikes, this course covers a wide range of cross bore safety topics, from the evaluation of existing cross cores to regulatory requirements.



Leading Practices on Cross Bore Safety Course

March 23 - 24, 2021
CrossBoreSafetyCourse.com

The increased use of trenchless excavation technologies has increased potential for cross bores. CBSA brought together locating services, manufacturers, utility owners, contractors, and industry consultants to create high quality standards, guidelines, and best practices for cross bore safety.

Registration Link: [Leading Practices on Cross Bore Safety Course \(excavationsafetyalliance.com\)](http://excavationsafetyalliance.com)

Visit DamagePreventWeek.com for additional events and workshops.



RTE Forums

- Refresh your skills
- Join an RTE Forum Webinar
- Two RTE Forums held each month
- March topic: Mapping Tools & Features
- RTE Forums- Tuesday, March 30th at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, March 31st at 1:00 PM

For more information or to register contact:

Web Ticket Department at: webticketdept@missdig811.org

"Digging In" - MISS DIG 811 Podcast

Tune in to each segment of "Digging-In", hosted by MISS DIG 811's Education Specialist Eric Urbain. The programs will center around a particular topic or feature interviews with industry professionals or various facility owners/operators regarding damage prevention. New episodes will follow weekly on Monday's at 10am.

If you would like to be a guest on MISS DIG 811's "Digging-In" podcast or have a topic you would like to hear more about, please contact Eric Urbain at: urbain@missdig811.org

The podcast will be available on the platforms below for your educational and listening enjoyment.



<https://digging-in.simplecast.com/episodes/episode-1-miss-dig-811-50-years-of-damage-prevention>



An Important Public Service Announcement from MISS DIG 811



Weight Restriction Update



MDOT 2021 Spring Weight Restriction Bulletin #1

Effective Monday, March 1st, 2021, 6 a.m., weight restrictions will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border north to and including M-20 from the interchange with US-31, Oceana County, East on M-20 to US-131, North on US-131 to M-20, Mecosta County, East on M-20 to US-10, Midland County, East on US-10 to M-25 in Bay City and including the entire thumb area.

Weight restriction information and updates may be obtained by calling 1-800-787-8960. For Companies located in Canada and New Jersey, information may be obtained by calling 517-373-6256.

On routes designated as "All Season Routes" (green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map) there will be no reduction in legal axle weight. On routes designated as "Seasonal" (solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a reduction of 25% for rigid pavements and 35% for flexible pavements.

Extended permits will be valid for oversize only in the weight restricted area.

Single trip permits will not be issued for overweight or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles and 150 feet in overall length in the weight restricted area.

Detailed weight restriction information may be obtained by linking to www.michigan.gov/truckers. Please refer to MDOT Truck Operators Map for route designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Bukoski at glennbukoski@thinkmita.org, or Rachele VanDeventer at rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org, or call them at the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

**MDOT Spring Weight Restriction
Bulletins**

County Jurisdiction Road Restrictions

