

State Damage Prevention Law Summary

State: Iowa

(Link to State law provided in Law & Regulation section below)

Summary Date: 8/7/2017

Excavator Requirements	
Excavation: Definition	Iowa Code § 480.1.4.a. "Excavation" means an operation in which a structure or earth, rock, or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed, or compressed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives and includes but is not limited to grading, trenching, tiling, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing, driving, and demolition of structures. b. "Excavation" does not include normal farming operations, residential, commercial, or similar gardening, the opening of a grave site in a cemetery, normal activities involved in land surveying pursuant to chapter 542B, operations in a solid waste disposal site which has planned for underground facilities, the replacement of an existing traffic sign at its current location and at no more than its current depth, and normal road or highway maintenance which does not change the original grade of the roadway or the ditch.
Excavator: Definition	Iowa Code § 480.1.5. "Excavator" means a person proposing to engage or engaging in excavation.
Excavator Notice to One Call Required (Yes / No)	Yes
Excavator Notice Minimum # Working Days Before Digging	2
Excavator Notice (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.1A This chapter applies to any excavation unless otherwise provided by law. A person shall not engage in any excavation unless the requirements of this chapter have been satisfied. Iowa Code § 480.4.1.a. Except as otherwise provided in this section, prior to any excavation, an excavator shall contact the notification center and provide notice of the planned excavation. This notice must be given at least forty-eight hours prior to the commencement of the excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.
Ticket Life (# of days)	20 days. (Iowa Code § 480.4.1.a.)
White-Line Required (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.4.1.e.)
Tolerance Zone	18" (Iowa Code § 480.4.3.c.)
Special Digging Requirements Within Tolerance Zone (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.4.3.a. (1) ... the excavator shall use due care in excavating in the marked area to avoid damaging the underground facility.... If, in the opinion of the operator, the planned excavation requires that the precise location of the underground facilities be determined, the excavator, unless otherwise agreed upon between the excavator and the operator, shall hand dig test holes to determine the location of the facilities unless the operator specifies an alternate method. ... c. For purposes of this chapter, the "horizontal location of any underground facility" is defined as including an area eighteen inches on either side of the underground facility. Iowa Code § 480.4.3.a. (3) Unless otherwise agreed by the operator and excavator in writing, no excavation shall be performed within twenty-five feet of an underground natural gas transmission line as defined in 49 CFR §192.3 unless a representative of the operator of the underground natural gas transmission line is present at the planned excavation area. This requirement shall not apply, however, when a representative of the operator fails to be present at the proposed excavation area at the time work is scheduled to commence or as otherwise agreed by the operator and excavator in writing. In this event, the excavator shall notify the operator that the representative failed to appear, and excavation operations can begin, provided the excavator uses due care to avoid damaging the underground facilities.
Hand Dig / Vacuum or Soft Excavation Within Tolerance Zone (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.4.3.a. (1))
Preserve / Maintain Marks Required (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.4.3.d. (1))
Call Again If No Response from Operator Or Signs Of Unmarked Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Notify One-Call if Marks Moved or No Longer Visible (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.4.4)

Special Language Regarding Trenchless Technology (Yes / No)	No
Separate Locate Request Required for Each Excavator (Yes / No)	Yes. (Iowa Code § 480.4.1.a.)
Notify Operator of Damage (Yes / No)	Yes. (Iowa Code § 480.4.5.)
Notify One Call Center of Damage (Yes / No)	No
Call 911 if Hazardous Materials Released (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.4.5.)
Notice Exemptions (Yes / No)	Yes
Notice Exemptions (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.1 4. Excavation means an operation in which a structure or earth, rock, or other material in or on the ground is moved, removed, or compressed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives and includes, but is not limited to, grading, trenching, tiling, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing, driving, and demolition of structures. Excavation does not include normal farming operations, residential, commercial, or similar gardening, the opening of a grave site in a cemetery, normal activities involved in land surveying pursuant to chapter 542B, operations in a solid waste disposal site which has planned for underground facilities, the replacement of an existing traffic sign at its current location and at no more than its current depth, and normal road or highway maintenance which does not change the original grade of the roadway or the ditch.
Operator Response	
Minimum # Days for Operator to Respond After Receiving Notice (Generally)	2
Operator Requirements to Respond to Locate Notification (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.4.3.a. (1) An operator who receives notice from the notification center shall mark the horizontal location of the operator's underground facility and the excavator shall use due care in excavating in the marked area to avoid damaging the underground facility. The operator shall complete such locating and marking within forty-eight hours after receiving the notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless otherwise agreed by the operator and the excavator. The locating and marking of the underground facilities shall be completed at no cost to the excavator.
Minimum Standards for Locator Qualifications (Yes / No)	No
Minimum Standards for Locator Qualifications (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Law Specifies Marking Standards Other Than Color (Yes / No)	No (Iowa Code § 480.5)
Law Specifies Marking Standards Other Than Color (Specific Language)	Not addressed
Law Includes Specific Language For Operators To Locate Sewer Laterals (Yes / No)	No (Reference Iowa Code § 480.1.10. "Underground facility" ... does not include sanitary sewer laterals ...")
Law Includes Specific Language For Operators To Locate Abandoned Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Locate Abandoned Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.

Positive Response Required - Operator Contact Excavator (Yes / No)	No
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact Excavator (Specific Language)	Not addressed
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact One Call Center (Yes / No)	Yes
Positive Response Required - Operator Contact One Call Center (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.4.3.a. (1) ... The operator shall complete such locating and marking, and shall notify the notification center that the marking is complete within forty-eight hours after receiving the notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays unless otherwise agreed by the operator and the excavator. ... b.. An operator who receives notice from the notification center and who determines that the operator does not have any underground facility located within the proposed area of excavation shall notify the notification center concerning this determination within forty-eight hours after receiving the notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. ...
Positive Response - One-Call Automated (Yes / No)	No (See Notes, Note 1)
Operator Must Provide One-Call Center with Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Provide One-Call Center with Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Operator Must Update Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Yes / No)	No
Operator Must Update Information On Locations of Buried Facilities (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
New Facilities Must Be Locatable Electronically (Yes / No)	No
New Facilities Must Be Locatable Electronically (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Design Request (Yes / No)	No (See Notes, Note 2)
One Call, Enforcement, and Reporting	
Mandatory One Call Membership (Yes / No)	Yes (Iowa Code § 480.3.3)
One Call Membership Exemptions (Yes / No)	Yes
One Call Membership Exemptions (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.1.8. Operator means a person owning or operating an underground facility including, but not limited to, public, private, and municipal utilities. An operator does not include a person who owns or otherwise lawfully occupies real property where an underground facility is located only for the use and benefit of the owner or occupant on the property.
One-Call Law Addresses Board Make-Up (Yes / No)	No
One-Call Law Addresses Board Make-Up (Specific Language)	Not addressed. (Reference Iowa Code § 480.3.1.a.)

Separate Body Designated to Advise Enforcement Authority (Yes / No)	No
Separate Body Designated to Advise Enforcement Authority (Specific Language)	Not addressed.
Penalties / Fines Excavators (Yes / No)	Yes
Penalties / Fines Excavators (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.6 1. A person who violates a provision of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty as follows: a. For a violation related to natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars. b. For a violation related to any other underground facility, an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars.
Penalties / Fines Operators (Yes / No)	Yes
Penalties / Fines Operators (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.6 1. A person who violates a provision of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty as follows: a. For a violation related to natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars. b. For a violation related to any other underground facility, an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars.
Penalties / Fines Other (Yes / No)	Yes
Penalties / Fines Other (Specific Language)	Iowa Code § 480.6 1. A person who violates a provision of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty as follows: a. For a violation related to natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars. b. For a violation related to any other underground facility, an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars.
Enforcement Authority Identified	Attorney General (Reference Iowa Code § 480.6.1.b.)
Damage Investigation Required by Enforcement Authority (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting of Excavation Damage by All Utility Owners to State Entity or Department (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting by Excavators to State Entity or Department (Yes / No)	No
Mandatory Reporting to State Entity or Department - Gas Only (Yes / No)	No
Law and Regulation	
Statute / Law (Name & Link)	Iowa Code Title XI, Subtitle 5, Chapter 480 - Underground Facilities Information, §§ 480.1 to 480.10 (https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=480&year=2014) Also see One-Call Center Website for Information on State Law.
Date of Last Revision to Statute / Law	March 26, 2014
Administrative Rules / Regulations (Yes / No)	No
Administrative Rules / Regulations (Name & Link)	None
State One Call Center(s) (Name & Link)	Iowa One Call(http://www.iowaonecall.com/)
Miscellaneous Notes	

<p>Notes</p>	<p>Note 1: Electronic positive response is not addressed in the Iowa Code; however, Iowa One Call does offer the use of the "Ticket Check" electronic positive response system. Also, Iowa Code § 480.2 states "The board shall implement the latest and most cost-effective technological improvements for the center in order to provide operators and excavators with the most accurate data available and in a timely manner to allow operators and excavators to perform their responsibilities with the minimum amount of interruptions."</p> <p>Note 2: Design requests are not addressed in the Iowa Code; however, Iowa One Call does offer the use of the "Design Request System" for professional designers/engineers.</p> <p>Note 3: Iowa Code, Chapter 480, Underground Facilities Information, can also be found in Volume IV, Code of Iowa, containing "All Statutes of a General and Permanent Nature, at: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/ICV/850336.pdf</p>
<p>State Damage Prevention / One-Call Law Recently Revised With Future Implementation Dates</p>	<p>0</p>