

# Ground Disturbance & Utility Locates

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## Facilities Underground Damage Prevention Standard Operating Procedure for the University of Washington Seattle Campus

Before any ground disturbance on the UW Seattle Campus you must call 811 for a utility locate. If you have any questions about how this process works, please contact:

Seattle Campus - the Building and Utility Shutdowns and Utility locates Manager, at 206-543-7158 or [kd79coop@uw.edu](mailto:kd79coop@uw.edu).

There could be buried facilities anywhere you plan to dig; under the road, sidewalk, or even in lawns and planting beds. Calling before you dig ensures that any publicly or UW owned underground lines will be marked, so that you can dig around them safely. Having the utility lines marked not only prevents accidental damage to the lines but prevents property damage and personal injuries that could result from breaking a line.

Also, it's the [law!](#)

Locate requirements must be followed for activities that range in size from planting bulbs or flowers to excavating a site for a new building foundation.

The University of Washington follows the legal requirements and has adopted the best practices noted in the [WA State Dig Law and Industry Best Practices](#). In addition to the material in the brochure the following must be adhered to:

- The project's LIVE utility map must be kept up to date
- Shutoffs to all systems potentially impacted by the work must be kept accessible

If your activities strike a utility, regardless of severity, you must contact:

Seattle Campus - the Building and Utility Shutdowns and Utility locates Manager and report the incident. Contractors or vendors must also notify their UW contract manager.

Here is a detailed explanation of how the process works:

Seattle Campus:

1. Locate request is submitted to 811 and a ticket is created and time stamped
2. The ticket is then sent to all utilities and facilities within the locate polygons, including the UW Building and Utility Shutdowns and Utility locates Manager . The UW polygon encapsulates the UW main campus, UW Hospital, ICA, west campus, etc.
3. If a locate is necessary the appropriate shop or utility provider is notified. This may include the UW High Voltage shop, Irrigation Shop, BIT, Heavy Equipment Shop, Zone electricians, Shop 24, construction and project managers, and the UW locate contractor.
4. The UW locate contractor marks UW water distribution, sewer, storm drains, low voltage, chilled water, steam, and natural gas.

5. Once marked, the Building and Utility Shutdowns and Utility locates Manager goes to the job site and verifies all facilities are marked for the UW. This completes UW's responsibility as a facility owner.
6. The ticket is then updated to reflect the completion of UW marked facilities. There are other utilities on our property such as Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Energy, Metro, Lumen and numerous fiber providers.