



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC BULLETIN

EXCAVATION – WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



“Excavation” is removal or movement of material from, or in, the earth.

Regardless of the size of tools or equipment used, when this removal or movement takes place it is excavation. This includes

- * Trenching
- * Backfilling
- * Boring
- * Tunneling
- * Blasting
- * Demolition or removal of old pipe, duct or conduit regardless of the method used.

Do I need a permit? It depends on where you are excavating.

You do not need a permit to . . .

- * Excavate on land that belongs to you personally and you will not be excavating near a utility easement that crosses your property.
- * Excavate when you have been hired to do so and the land you are excavating on belongs to your customer – and you will not be excavating near a utility easement that crosses that property.

Permits are required when . . .

- * The purpose of the excavation is to install, remove, or replace a pipe, conduit, duct, cable, tubing or the like – regardless of whose property is involved.
- * You are excavating on public land or in a utility easement.

Note: The size or type of tool being used does not relieve you of the responsibility of obtaining a permit from DoCD and calling OKIE 811 for marking.

What is OKIE 811? It is a free service to anyone who intends to excavate. Anyone can call and have the utilities marked in the path where the excavation will take place. It is an easy, simple way to avoid problems. All the information necessary to make the request (and a complete explanation of how it works and who is paying for it) may be found online at www.okie811.org.

How do I get a permit? Permits are obtained from the Department of Community Development (DoCD) at City Hall. To obtain the permit, a simple plan showing the location, distance, depth (if known), and stating the purpose of the excavation is required. A permit fee must be paid; the amount depends on the extent of the work.

Excavation without a permit may result in a Stop Work Order being posted.