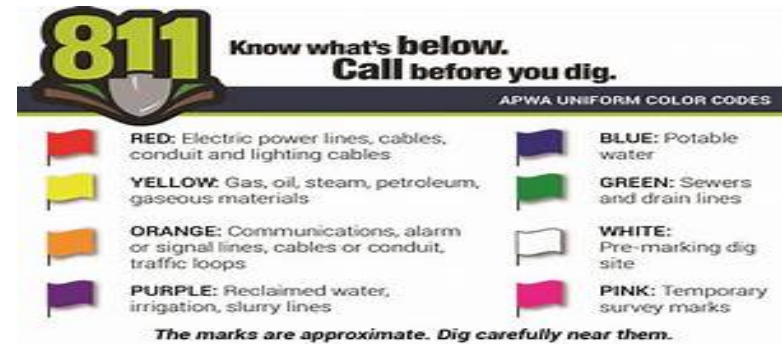




## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### EXCAVATION SAFETY

Hazards posed by striking buried underground utilities include property damage, injury, electrocutions, and even explosions.

In addition to OSHA rules, workers should be aware that there may be specific state, municipal, or local rules for “Call before you dig” where the work is being done.

- Always respect the markings and flags placed by the locating service.

***OSHA Standard 1926.651(b)(1) states that the estimated location of utility installations, such as sewer, telephone, fuel, electric, water lines, or any other underground installations that reasonably may be expected to be encountered during excavation work, shall be determined prior to opening an excavation.***

- Call 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to working on excavations or trenches and the call will automatically be routed to the local one call center.
- Prior to excavation and calling before you dig some states require contractors to “white line” the area proposed for excavation.
- “White line” the area by painting arrows, dashes, dots, or lines in the area the crew will be digging before the locate service arrives.