



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Office of the State Fire Marshal
California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

2251 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 568-3800
<https://digsafe.fire.ca.gov/>



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

March 28, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

East End Complex Building 172
The Hearing Room
1500 Capitol Ave, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Live Webcast: <https://digsafe.fire.ca.gov/>*

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS REGARDING
IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 1914**

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation (Dig Safe) Board will hold a workshop to receive information and solicit public input regarding the implementation of AB 1914 (Flora, 2018).

BACKGROUND

Before lawmakers passed the Dig Safe Act of 2016, an excavator could use power tools in the tolerance zone¹ before determining the exact location of subsurface installations, as long as the excavator had the operator's consent. Concerned that such a practice could lead to damage, injury, or even death if an excavator hit an underground facility, lawmakers prohibited the mutual agreement exemption when they passed the Act.

The Legislature nonetheless recognized that hand tool use, in certain circumstances, could put the person using the tool at greater safety risk than proper use of an appropriate power tool, and in 2018 it passed Assembly Bill 1914 which authorizes the Board to determine under what conditions an excavator may use power-operated or boring equipment prior to determining the exact location of a subsurface installation. The Board is required to adopt regulations to implement this paragraph on or before July 1, 2020.

¹ "Tolerance Zone" refers to a set distance from a subsurface installation that an excavator may dig without having to use hand tools. This is usually 24-inches, or two feet, on either side of the subsurface installation, and is marked by the operator.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT WORKSHOP

The Dig Safe Board is interested in hearing from facility operators, excavators, and other stakeholders on their experiences and views surrounding excavation within the tolerance zone.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board (Dig Safe Board) will hold a workshop in The East End Complex Building 172, the Hearing Room at 1616 Capitol Avenue 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 on Thursday March 28th, 2019 to discuss the implementation of AB 1914. While a quorum of Board members may attend, no official Dig Safe Board action will be taken at this event. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the Dig Safe Board relative to the issues for discussion at the workshop.

SECURITY

All visitors must register at the Security Guard station located in the lobby to obtain a visitor sticker. Visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to 15 minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the workshop.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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The notice and agenda are also available on our website: <https://digsafe.fire.ca.gov/>

* To the extent possible, the workshop will be accessible via live audio webcast. The webcast is provided as an option for public participation, but the Board is not responsible for unforeseen technical difficulties that may occur. The Board is under no obligation to postpone or delay its workshop in the event such technical difficulties occur before or during the workshop. Public comments on the workshop topic may be accepted via live audio webcast if feasible, and if the comments are concise and limited in number.

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) by ensuring that the facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, and providing this notice and information given to the members of the California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board in appropriate alternate formats when requested. If you need further assistance, including disability-related modifications or accommodations, you may contact the California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board no later than seven (7) calendar days before the meeting at (916) 568-3823. California Relay Service is available by dialing 711.