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/

MEMBERS

CARL VOSS, Chairperson
JESSICA ARDEN, Vice-Chair
RON BIANCHINI
RANDY CHARLAND
MARJORIE DEL TORO
WILLIAM JOHNS
MARSHALL JOHNSON
AMPARO MUNOZ

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Tony Marino

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

April 24, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Redwood Room
2241 Harvard Street, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95815

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

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS REGARDING
Development of Reasonable Care Standards

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation (Dig Safe) Board will hold a workshop to receive information and solicit public input regarding development of standards for reasonable care in excavating around buried infrastructure in those circumstances defined in Gov't Code §§ 4216.18(b) and (c).

BACKGROUND

The Legislature tasked the Board with developing reasonable care standards in the Dig Safe Act of 2016. While the Legislature did not limit the standards the Board may develop, those listed in 4216.18 are required. In 2019 the Board will continue to develop the following standards:

• What constitutes reasonable care, when excavating using hand tools within the tolerance zone[1] of a subsurface installation?

• What constitutes reasonable care in determining depth of underground facilities in grading activities?

[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.

§ 4216.18(b)

(b) What constitutes reasonable care, as required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 4216.4, in using hand tools around subsurface installations within the tolerance zone, considering the need to balance worker safety in trenches with the protection of subsurface installations. As part of determining reasonable care, the board shall consider the appropriate additional excavating depth an excavator should make if either of the following occur:

(1) The subsurface installation is delineated within the tolerance zone but it is not in conflict with the excavation.

(2) The location of a subsurface installation is determined, but additional subsurface installations may exist immediately below the located subsurface installation.

§ 4216.18(c)

(c) What constitutes reasonable care, as required by paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 4216.4, in grading activities on road shoulders and dirt roads which may include standards for potholing.

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 regarding standards related to reasonable care. Specifically, the Board seeks input on care taken when excavating with hand tools in the tolerance zone of subsurface installations and when determining depth of underground facilities in relation to road grading.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board (Dig Safe Board) will hold a workshop in the Redwood Room at 2241 Harvard Street on the 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95815 on Wednesday April 24th, 2019, to discuss the development of reasonable care standards. 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.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jennifer Reed, Policy Analyst
California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board
2251 Harvard Street, Sacramento, CA 95815
jenni.reed@fire.ca.gov
(916) 568-2986

This notice is 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.