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TAKE THE FINAL STEP WHEN DIGGING AROUND UNDERGROUND UTILITIES



Take the Final Step When Digging Around Underground Utilities

via winstarins.com

We all know about locating underground utilities before digging, but do you know the final step you should be taking before firing up the backhoe?

It's not uncommon for us to see claims for cut lines if the locates were inaccurate, even though the water system had underground utilities located prior to digging. For whatever reason, sometimes the utilities are marked incorrectly. And when the water system digs, they hit the mismarked underground utilities. You can help your system's insurance loss record if you'll take some pictures of the locates *before* you start digging. It's **especially helpful** if your pictures have a landmark or two in them (a tree, fence, gate, road sign, etc.) so in the event the utilities are mismarked and you accidentally cut one, your insurance adjuster can use your photos to document that the problem is with the locate and that you did everything you could to avoid damaging the other utilities. This may enable the adjuster to shift the claim to the responsible party and help improve your utility's loss history, thereby allowing you to qualify for insurance discounts available to those with lower losses.

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Winter Weather Tips

via [ready.gov/winter-weather](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

With the recent snow and ice that hit Texas earlier this month, here are some safety tips regarding the extra cold weather that us southerners don't see too often.

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

A winter storm can:

- Last a few hours or several days.
- Cut off heat, power and communication services.
- Put older adults, children and sick individuals at greater risk.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

- Stay off roads.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Use generators outside only and away from windows.

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3 Steps to a Better Safety Program

via [texasmutual.com](https://www.texasmutual.com)

A well-managed safety program provides real protection for your workers and your business. By following a few simple steps, you can create a strong plan, develop more effective training measures, and ensure consistency and continuity in your safety practices.

Use this three-step guide to build the right program for your business and stay on track.

1. PLAN

- > Get a Plan in Place
- > Emphasize Safety with your Team
- > Issue a Clear Safety Policy Statement

2. TRAIN

- > Provide the Right Training
- > Train Your Managers First
- > Teach to Think Prevention

3. ANALYZE

- > Analyze and Evaluate Your Program
- > Analyze Incidents
- > Keep Records

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Texas Water Development Board Partners with Federal Agencies to Enhance Flood Decision Support Toolbox

via texaswaternewsroom.org

A critical tool developed by federal agencies for analyzing flood risk has received important enhancements for Texas as a result of state and federal cooperation.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has partnered with the federal Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) team, composed of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Weather Service, to enhance the Flood Decision Support Toolbox. The Toolbox is an interactive online application that provides maps and data regarding the possible extent of flooding and can be used for analyzing potential scenarios, flood risk assessments, damage analysis, and more.

For the first phase of site enhancements that launched , the TWDB worked closely with the USGS to incorporate building footprints on Texas maps. By adding this information, the Toolbox can now display potential damage to structures within the range of the USGS gages. This will give users the ability to estimate the economic impacts of different flood events on their communities. The TWDB has also provided building footprints outside of the current gage ranges in preparation for future mapping updates.

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