

IOWA 811


ONE CALL

The Official Newsletter of Iowa One Call

Vol. 32, No. 2

# Excavator

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# WHAT'S UP BELOW



## NEW ONE-CALL LAWS ENACTED JULY 1, 2024

In May 2024, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed nearly 40 new bills into law, including amendments to the state's "call before you dig" or "one call" laws. These laws, essential for preventing damage to underground facilities, now have updated regulations to enhance safety and compliance.

One of the significant changes in these amendments involves stricter enforcement and more comprehensive guidelines for locating technicians. The updated laws aim to improve communication and coordination between excavators and locators thereby reducing inadequate communications, locating delays, and the risk of accidental damage to underground facilities during excavation projects.

For more details on the new one call laws enacted July 1, 2024, you can visit the [law update information page on the Iowa One Call website](#).

In summary, the new amendments to Iowa Code chapter 480 (the "Iowa One Call law") are as follows:

01

### New Definition for "Forty-Eight-Hour Period"

- New Subsection. (480.1 Definitions): "Forty-eight-hour period" means a period of forty-eight consecutive hours beginning at 6:00 a.m. the next business day from the day the notification center receives a notice and excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

02

### New Definition for "Locator"

- New Subsection. (480.1 Definitions): "Locator" means a person proposing to engage or engaging in the location and marking of underground facilities under contract with or employed by an operator.

03

### Iowa One Call Board to Include Two Locators and Two Excavators (nonvoting)

- Amended Subsection. 480.3(1)(a)(1): The center shall be governed by a board of directors, which shall represent and be elected by operators, excavators, and other persons who participate in the center. "The board shall include two locators and two excavators to serve as nonvoting members."

04

### The Center Shall Implement a New Communications Process

- New Subsection. 480.3(2)(b): "The center shall establish a communications system to facilitate the provision of notice by operators, locators, and excavators."

(The new system, enabling two-way communication for operators, locators, and excavators, will not be ready for implementation on July 1, 2024. It will be implemented in 2024 upon development, completion, and testing.)

05

**The Center Shall Provide Records to The Iowa Utilities Board**

- New Subsection. 480.3(4): *“The center shall provide records to the utilities board upon request as a part of an investigation on behalf of the attorney general’s office.”*

06

**Notice of Planned Excavation Required Prior to the “Forty-Eight-Hour Period”**

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(1)(a): Except as otherwise provided in this section, prior to any excavation, an excavator shall contact the notification center and provide notice of the planned excavation *“occurring after a forty-eight-hour period.”*

07

**A Notice Is Valid for Twenty-Five Calendar Days**

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(1)(a): *“The notice shall be valid for twenty-five calendar days beginning on the day the forty-eight-hour period concludes.”*

08

**Operators Shall Complete and Status the Locating and Marking Within the “Forty-Eight-Hour Period”**

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(a)(1): The operator shall complete such locating and marking, and shall notify the notification center that the marking is complete within the *“forty-eight-hour period.”*

09

**The Center Shall Notify the Excavator Within the “Forty-Eight-Hour Period”**

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(a)(1): No later than the expiration of the *“forty-eight-hour period”* the notification center shall notify the excavator of the underground facility locating and marking status, or the failure of the operator to notify the center that the locating and marking is complete.”

10

**Use of Nondestructive Methods to Determine the Location of Underground Facilities**

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(a)(1): If, in the opinion of the operator, the planned excavation requires that the precise location of the underground facilities be determined, the excavator, unless otherwise agreed upon between the excavator and the operator, shall hand dig test holes *“or use nondestructive methods”* to determine the location of the facilities unless the operator specifies an alternate method.”

11

**Locate Marking Flags Shall Include Operator Name and Contact Phone Number**

- New Subsection. 480.4(3)(a)(2)(b): *“A locator shall use for marking a flag that includes the name of the operator and a contact phone number.”*

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## 12

### No Excavations Performed Within Twenty-Five Feet of an “Underground Pipeline”

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(a)(3): Unless otherwise agreed by the operator and excavator in writing, no excavation shall be performed within twenty-five feet of an underground “pipeline operating at one hundred fifty pounds per square inch or greater and that is equal to or greater than two inches in diameter” unless a representative of the underground “pipeline” is present at the planned excavation area. This requirement shall not apply, however, when a representative of the operator fails to be present at the proposed excavation area at the time work is scheduled to commence or as otherwise agreed by the operator and excavator in writing.

## 13

### If No Conflicts Exist Operators May Status Clear Within the “Forty-Eight-Hour Period”

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(b): An operator who receives notice from the notification center and who determines that the operator does not have any underground facility located within the proposed area of excavation shall notify the notification center concerning this determination within the “forty-eight-hour period.”

## 14

### The Center Shall Notify Excavators When an Operator Clears a Notice Within the “Forty-Eight Hour Period”

- Amended Subsection. 480.4(3)(b): No later than the expiration of the “forty-eight-hour period” the notification center shall notify the excavator that the operator does not have any underground facilities within the proposed area of excavation.

## 15

### Locating Time Limit Violations Mandated

- New Subsection. 480.6(1)(c): *“If a locator violates a time limit set forth in this chapter and a complaint relating to the violation is filed with the utilities board, the locator is subject to a civil penalty in an amount determined by the attorney general. If a locator employed by an operator violates this paragraph, the operator employing the locator shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount determined by the attorney general, which shall be the same as though assessed against the locator. A civil penalty imposed by the attorney general under this paragraph shall not exceed one hundred dollars for each violation for each day the violation continues, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars.”*

## 16

### Iowa Utilities Board – Per Direction of the Attorney General – Shall Investigate Violations

- New Subsection. 480.6(2)(b) and (c):
  - *“At the direction of the attorney general, the utilities board shall investigate a violation of this chapter. Upon completion of the investigation, the utilities board shall submit to the attorney general a written summary of the investigation and all evidence acquired during the investigation, except as set forth in subsection 2, paragraph ‘c.’”*
  - *“The utilities board may independently receive and investigate complaints alleging a violation of this chapter by a locator.”*

**17**

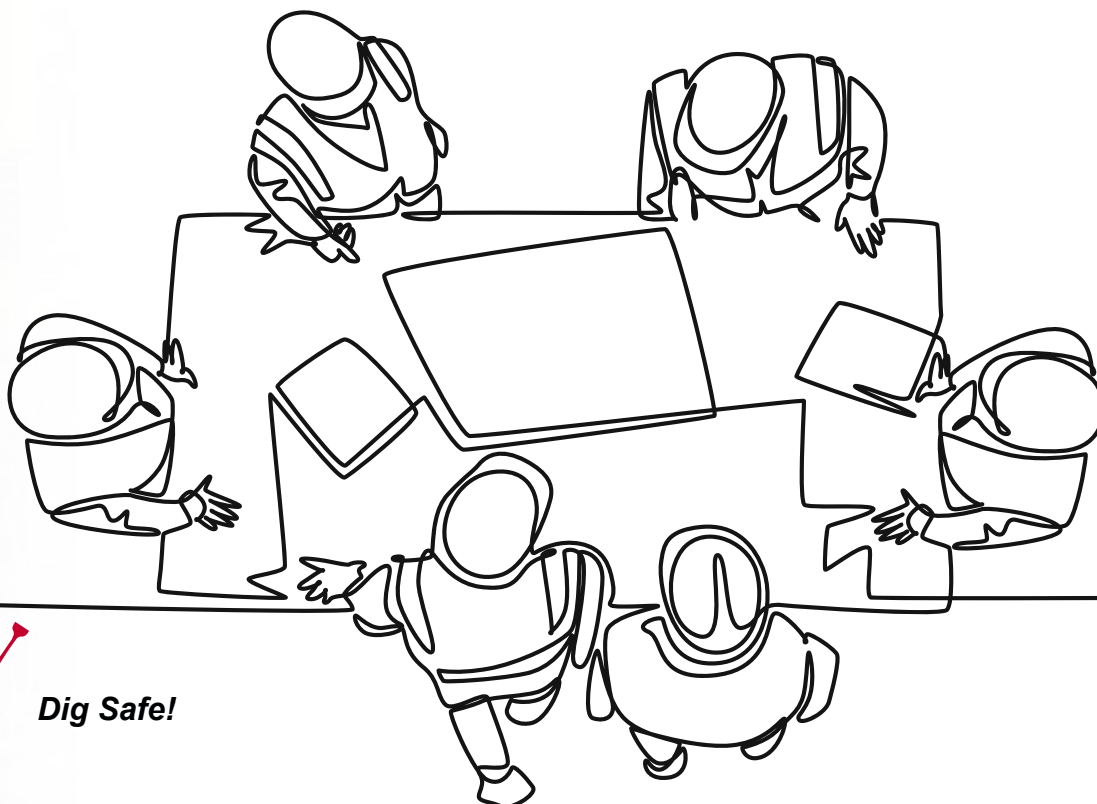
**Locator Enforcement Authority**

- New Section. 480.11: **Locator Enforcement Authority.**
1. A locator who operates in this state shall satisfy all of the following requirements:
    - a. Take responsibility for completing location services as required under section 480.4.
    - b. Correctly notify the notification center that a location service could not be completed due to a lack of response by the excavator and include in the notice the date, time, and method of the attempted contact with the excavator, and the name and contact information of any representative of the excavator.
  2. A locator operating in this state is subject to enforcement requirements as established in chapter 476. Any enforcement action taken for a violation of this chapter by a locator shall be taken solely against the locator and not the operator except as provided in section 480.6, subsection 1, paragraph “c”.
  3. Any enforcement action taken against a locator employed by an operator for a violation of this chapter shall not result in the operator being subject to penalties as both a locator and an operator.

**18**

**Underground Facility Excavation Meeting**

- New Section. “**UNDERGROUND FACILITY EXCAVATION MEETING.** The Iowa Utilities Board shall convene interested stakeholders before December 31, 2024, to discuss underground facility excavations, including subjects relating to forecasting and future projects, and operational challenges.”





# 2024 IOWA EXCAVATION SAFETY SUMMIT

## MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

Mark your calendars and save the date for Thursday, November 7, 2024! Plan on attending the [2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit](#) in Des Moines, Iowa, located in the Jacobson Exhibition Center (the Jacobson building) on the Iowa State fairgrounds. Contractors, excavators, utility operators, locators, and all stakeholders with vested interests are encouraged to attend this free one-day safety expo. Attendees can anticipate a comprehensive program designed to explore the latest industry trends, engage with exhibitors showcasing their tools and equipment through live demonstrations, and actively participate in interactive programs and contests aimed at fostering safety awareness.

At this free event, attendees will be served breakfast and lunch and can expect to take part in the day's program, including:

- Presentations led by multiple industry experts that focus on topics including recommended best practices, state laws, regulations and enforcement, mitigating liability, and maximizing underground damage prevention and safety measures.
- A chance for an attendee to win up to \$1,000 by participating in an interactive trivia contest.
- The opportunity to participate in a raffle to win a great selection of door prizes.
- An excavator rodeo that allows experienced equipment operators to compete for prizes.
- A wide range of exhibitor booths featuring the latest tools and technologies.
- A chance to network with other industry professionals from across the state.

The event will be led by professional moderator Kris Covi, who will leverage his expertise as an industry attorney and event speaker to ensure seamless transitions between scheduled presenters and activities. Attendees will be presented an inspiring story by keynote speaker, Eric Giguere, who will share his firsthand account and near-death experience as a survivor of a harrowing trench collapse in which he was buried alive. Participating presenters, including representatives from the Iowa Attorney General's office and Iowa One Call, will cover topics such as minimizing hazards, enhancing excavation safety, and the consequences of non-compliance with established requirements and best practices. The day's agenda will also feature the presentation of the Excavator of the Year and Locator of the Year achievement awards, acknowledging outstanding partners in damage prevention as chosen by industry peers.

The decision to replace individual Excavation Safety Awareness Program (ESAP) meetings, previously held by Iowa One Call (IOC) in various locations across Iowa, follows the successful adoption by other states of full-day or multi-day "summit-style" programs. After observing the effectiveness of summit programs in neighboring states like Nebraska and Missouri, the IOC Board of Directors opted to initiate an Iowa summit event. Currently, the IOC administrative

**What:** Iowa Excavation Safety Summit  
**When:** Thursday, November 7, 2024  
**Where:** Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center  
Iowa State Fairgrounds  
3000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50317  
**Why:** Network with peers, acquire insights from industry experts, and partake in two complimentary meals at the Iowa Excavation Safety Summit.

For more information, visit [IowaSafetySummit.com](http://IowaSafetySummit.com).



staff, with support from IOC center vendor One Call Concepts (OCC), is developing the event, with strong indications that the 2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit is generating significant anticipation.

One of the primary advantages of summit-style programs is the opportunity for collaboration and participation. Unlike individual meetings, where interaction may be limited, summits bring together stakeholders from various sectors of the industry. This diversity fosters rich discussions, the sharing of best practices, and the exploration of innovative solutions to common challenges. Attendees not only learn from expert presentations but also engage in meaningful dialogue with their peers, enriching their understanding and enhancing their professional networks.

Summit-style programs offer a broader and more complete educational experience compared to individual meetings and provide a wealth of information about current trends and the state of the industry. The attending exhibitors and participating sponsors provide attendees an interactive showcase of the latest tools, technologies and processes designed for safer, more efficient procedures that minimize risk and enhance productivity. With more sessions and a broader range of topics covered, attendees gain a more comprehensive understanding of the latest developments, regulations and trends shaping the excavation safety landscape.

The transition to a summit-style event by Iowa One Call demonstrates a dedication to offering stakeholders an optimal educational experience. Supported by industry partners, exhibitors, and sponsors, the 2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit is poised to be highly anticipated and valuable for industry professionals statewide.

Click to Expand Map. Exhibition Center is located at section L10.



Iowa One Call is “calling” upon our industry partners and leaders to take part in the 2024 Iowa Safety Summit by becoming a sponsor of the event and/or by participating as an exhibitor. This will be a great opportunity for sponsors and exhibitors to:

- Gain targeted exposure to Iowa’s construction and excavating community
- Increased brand visibility among your target audience
- Network with potential clients, partners, and stakeholders
- Showcase your products or services directly to your target market
- Engage with existing customers for relationship building
- Demonstrate your company’s commitment to safety and damage prevention

Additional details about the summit event can be found at [IowaSafetySummit.com](http://IowaSafetySummit.com).

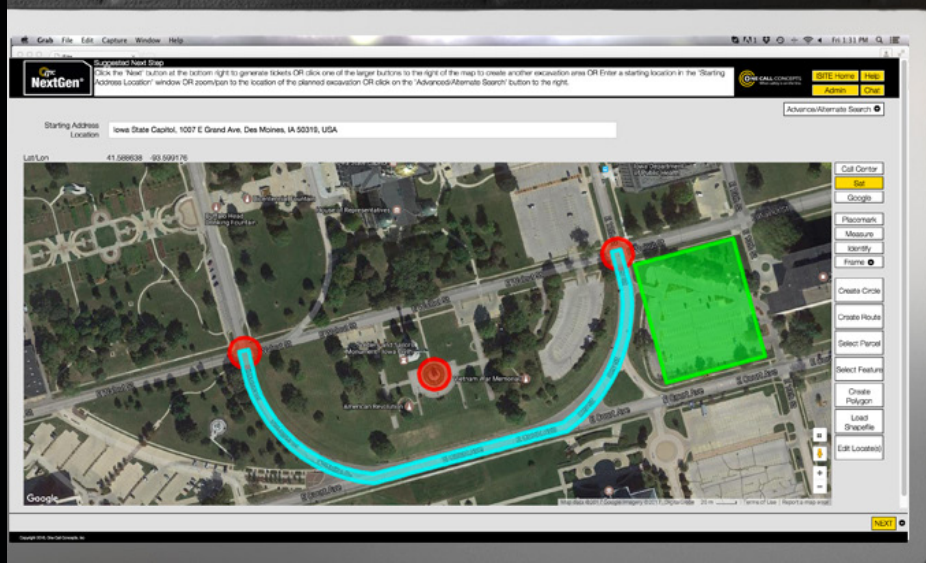
Attendee registration is now open! Excavators, contractors, locators, facility operators, and other stakeholders can register to attend. [Click here to register to attend for free.](#)

Iowa One Call will continue to provide updates for the 2024 Excavation Safety Summit via the website [IowaOneCall.com](http://IowaOneCall.com), [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), and informational mass emails.

We hope to see you there!

Online registration is currently open for sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities via the Eventleaf platform: [2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit \(eventleaf.com\)](http://2024IowaExcavationSafetySummit(eventleaf.com))

# TIPS FOR MAPPING PRECISELY AND ACCURATELY



**CHECK OUT THE NEXTGEN ONLINE TICKETING TUTORIAL [HERE!](#)**

Use the right tool for the job – ITIC NextGen offers a diverse array of mapping options to fit every scenario.

2. Don't over-map – ITIC NextGen builds the locate request from the mapping. Over-mapping a work area can result in wasted time and resources.

3. Double-check your work – use the different map views and/or Google street view to help ensure you've mapped accurately and completely.



811

# NEW SECTION OF IOWA'S ONE CALL LAW: UNDERGROUND FACILITY EXCAVATION MEETING

As part of the recent amendments to Iowa Code Chapter 480, commonly referred to as the "Iowa One Call law," a new section mandates the organization of an Underground Facility Excavation Meeting. This amendment, designed to foster communication and collaboration among various stakeholders, introduces a proactive approach to addressing the complexities of underground facility excavations.

## KEY DETAILS OF THE NEW SECTION

**Underground Facility Excavation Meeting:** According to the new section, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) is tasked with convening a meeting for all interested stakeholders before December 31, 2024. This meeting aims to provide a platform for discussing a range of topics critical to the planning and execution of underground facility excavations.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- 1. Forecasting and Future Projects:** One of the goals of this meeting is to discuss the forecasting of extensive future excavation projects. By bringing together stakeholders, the aim is to ensure that large-scale excavation projects are planned with comprehensive insights and input from the underground locating community. This will help address the forecasting needs of the locating community, ensuring a sufficient number of locators are available to complete timely locating and marking schedules.
- 2. Operational Challenges:** Another crucial topic on the agenda will be the operational challenges faced by excavators, locators, and the notification system. These challenges include safety and damage prevention, regulatory compliance, demanding deadlines, communication inefficiencies, and system abuse. The meeting will serve as a forum for stakeholders to share experiences and propose solutions to common problems, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of the process.

## STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The amendment emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement, recognizing that a collaborative approach is essential for addressing the multifaceted nature of underground facility excavations. Stakeholders may include underground facility operators and locating technicians, excavators and construction firms, one call representatives, government agencies, and other relevant entities. Their participation is expected to provide a diverse range of perspectives and expertise, contributing to more informed decision-making and better outcomes for all parties involved.

## IMPACT AND EXPECTATIONS

The introduction of the Underground Facility Excavation Meeting represents a forward-thinking initiative by Iowa stakeholders and legislators. By proactively addressing forecasting and operational challenges, the goal is to improve the safety, efficiency, and coordination of excavations and underground facility locating and marking operations across the state. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate actively, as their input will be invaluable in shaping the future of underground infrastructure projects in Iowa.

As the December 31, 2024, deadline approaches, stakeholders should stay informed about the meeting's details and prepare to engage in meaningful discussions to advance Iowa's underground facility excavation processes. Upon final confirmation of the meeting, Iowa One Call will dedicate a page on its website, and both the Iowa Utilities Board and Iowa One Call will provide outreach and communication efforts.



# INTRODUCING THE Safe Excavator App



State laws pertaining to excavation (or digging) vary – and finding the specific information you're looking for quickly can be a challenge.

The **Safe Excavator App** makes it easy to find state-specific excavation information including the following requirements or events:

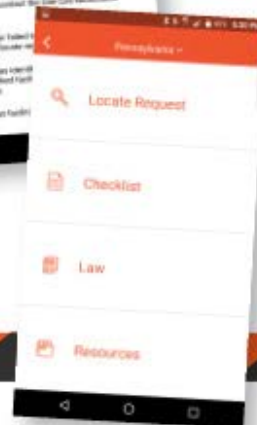
- ▼ Advance notice or wait time
- ▼ Pre-marking ('whitelining')
- ▼ 811 ticket information
- ▼ Names of local enforcement agencies and 811 call centers, also connecting you electronically to submit a locate request
- ▼ Includes safe digging tips + checklist

PLEASE CONTACT  
**Lindsay Sander**  
713.208.0273  
LNS@SanderResources.com  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

  
**National  
Excavator  
Initiative**  
*Safety always.*

FREE to download in the App store (Apple) and Google Play (Android)

Search "safe excavator" or "safeexcavator" and look for the orange shovel



As simple as...  
**1...2...3!**

- 1 Select a state
- 2 Pick an activity
- 3 Research your topic

[www.safeexcavator.com](http://www.safeexcavator.com)



Know what's below.  
**811 before you dig.**

The National Excavator Initiative is an effort to raise the awareness of a critically important program: 811.

Contacting 811 before digging is the single most critical action an excavator can take to help ensure their health and safety are protected, while at the same time preventing financial harm and environmental impact.



# KEY CHANGES TO IOWA CODE, CHAPTER 480

(ENACTED JULY 1, 2024)

## Changes to the required “forty-eight-hour period”

“Forty-eight-hour period” means a period of forty-eight consecutive hours beginning at 6:00 a.m. the next business day from the day the notification center receives a notice and excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

In summary:

- The day of the notice does not count towards the forty-eight-hour period. The “forty-eight-hour period” will begin at 6:00 a.m. the next business day from the day the notice is received at the Iowa One Call notification center, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.
- The physical/digital ticket from Iowa One Call will include the appropriate timelines.

Beginning July 1, 2024: How the "Forty-Eight-Hour Period" Is Calculated

NO HOLIDAYS												
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM									
Monday	Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM								
Monday		Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Weekend	Weekend	Due 6AM					
Monday			Received	Business Day 1	Weekend	Weekend	Business Day 2	Due 6AM				
Monday				Received	Weekend	Weekend	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM			
Monday					Received	Weekend	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM			
Monday						Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM			
Monday							Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM		
Monday								Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM	
Monday									Received	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	
Monday										Received	Business Day 1	
Monday											Received	
Monday												Received

Beginning July 1, 2024: How the "Forty-Eight-Hour Period" Is Calculated

HOLIDAYS											
Monday	Tuesday (Holiday)	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Received	X	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM							
Monday	Received	X	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Weekend	Weekend	Due 6AM				
Monday		Received	X	Business Day 1	Weekend	Weekend	Business Day 2	Due 6AM			
Monday			Received	X	Weekend	Weekend	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM		
Monday				Received	Weekend	Weekend	X	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM	
Monday					Received	Weekend	Weekend	X	Business Day 1	Business Day 2	Due 6AM

## Changes to Ticket Validity (the “life of a notice/ticket”)

The notice shall be valid for twenty-five calendar days from the date beginning on the day the forty-eight-hour period concludes.

In summary:

- The validity of a notice (“locate ticket”) is now twenty-five calendar days beginning on the day the forty-eight-hour period concludes.
- This is a change from the previous law prior to the July 1, 2024, amendment, which mandated that notices were valid for twenty calendar days from the day the notice was received at the notification center.
- On the day the forty-eight-hour period concludes, regardless of the time of day, the twenty-five calendar day notice (ticket) begins at the start of that day (at 12:00 Midnight).
- The notice (physical, digital, and transmitted versions) will include the proper timelines.

Beginning July 1, 2024: How the Twenty-Five Calendar Day "Ticket Life" Is Calculated

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 - Ticket Received	2	3	4 - Ticket Due 6am	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 - Ticket Expires at midnight	29	30				

## Locate Flags will Contain Name and Contact of the Operator

A locator shall use for marking a flag that includes the name of the operator and a contact phone number.

In summary:

- Beginning July 1, 2024, the locating/marking flags used to mark an operator’s underground facilities will display the operator’s name and a contact phone number for the operator.

## New Communication process

The center will establish a communication system to facilitate the provision of notice by operators, locators, and excavators.

In summary:

- Iowa Contractor groups, along with other excavator stakeholders, have historically requested a feedback process in response to operator/locator ticket status information. They emphasize the importance of sharing their perspectives on the information provided by operators and locators.
- A new process will be implemented enabling operators, locators, and excavators to exchange information, respond to each other, and address concerns regarding all excavation notices (“locate tickets”).
- The process is currently under development and will not be available on July 1. During the legislative process, it was made clear by Iowa One Call that development of a new system/process would take time to plan, develop, complete, test and implement. The new system/process will be available in time for the 2025 “dig season.”

# IN THE NEWS



*Local Excavation and Safety News From Around the Web*



## 2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit

[iowasafetysummit.com](http://iowasafetysummit.com)

Registration is now open for the FREE 2024 Iowa Excavation Safety Summit! Happening November 7, 2024, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds' Jacobson Exhibition Center in Des Moines, the summit offers a unique in-person opportunity to connect with peers from across the state and gain a greater understanding of the latest in damage prevention and safety... [\[Learn More\]](#)

## New One-Call Laws Enacted July 1, 2024

[www.iowaonecall.com/iowa-one-call-law-update](http://www.iowaonecall.com/iowa-one-call-law-update)

The new amendments to Iowa Code chapter 480 (the "Iowa One Call law") can be found here: [\[Learn More\]](#)



# IOWA 811

# ONE CALL



[www.IOWAONECALL.com](http://www.IOWAONECALL.com)

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