



Utilities & Energy  
Services  
FACILITIES & ENERGY SERVICES

# **Line Strike Avoidance Procedures**

*January 2026*



## **Utilities & Energy Services (UES) LINE STRIKE AVOIDANCE PROCEDURE – Long-Term Project Duration**

Note: Long-Term Duration refers to projects that generally exceed 1 month (30+ days) to complete and require more than one locate ticket update. These projects typically involve the construction of new facilities or the installation of new infrastructure on the Texas A&M University campus.

### **Locates Initiated:**

- Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor coordinates identification of underground infrastructure of project site by requesting locates to be completed.
- Locates are requested through the Tx811 System.
- It is the responsibility of the project to pothole and positively identify all underground infrastructure within the project site.

### **Permit Process Initiated:**

- UES Permit Program scrubs the Tx811 Data from the UtiliSphere system to initiate permit process.
- Ticket is assigned to an available Line Strike Avoidance Technician, who will be the primary contact throughout the initial permit process.
- Assigned technician contacts the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor to schedule an on-site visit to occur after locates are completed and before potholing begins.

### **Initial Site Excavation Permit Process:**

- Step 1 – Locates in Process
  - Locates have been requested and are currently in process. Assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will be in contact with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor until an initial site visit can be scheduled and performed.
- Step 2 – Initial Site Visit
  - After locates are performed, assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will visit with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor on site to verify that all necessary locates have been completed.
- Step 3 – Potholing of Excavation Site
  - Once utility locates are performed and have been verified by the UES Line Strike Avoidance Technician, the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor can commence with potholing and, to the best of their ability, the positive identification of all underground infrastructure.
- Step 4 – Data Point Collection
  - During the potholing process and prior to backfilling, the Line Strike Avoidance Technician will gather GPS data points on exposed utilities at designated pothole locations.
  - Data Points will be uploaded to ESRI, and the mapping updated.
- Step 5 – Permit Approval
- When the work area has been potholed and locations of exposed infrastructure have been recorded, the assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will approve the excavation permit.
- Step 6 – Excavation
  - Once permitted to proceed the excavator will complete excavation of designated site.
- Step 7 – Data Point Collection – Exposed Utilities
  - During the excavation process and prior to backfilling, the Line Strike Avoidance Technician will gather data points on all exposed utilities within the excavation site.
  - Data Points Uploaded to ESRI.
- Step 8 – Backfilling
  - Work on exposed utilities is complete and area is being returned to previous operational conditions.
- Step 9 – Initial Site Excavation and Infrastructure Discovery Complete
  - Assigned technician will contact excavator to verify backfilling is complete.
  - Area is returned to normal operation.

### **Initial Site Excavation Permit Process Closed:**

- After backfilling is complete and area is returned to normal operations, the permit is closed, and the excavation review process is complete.



### **Subsequent Site Excavation Permit Process:**

- Step 1 – Locate Requested through Tx811 for Excavation Site
  - New permit process is initiated for current excavation site. UES permit program scrubs the Tx811 Data from their UtiliSphere system to initiate permit process.
  - Ticket is assigned to an available Line Strike Avoidance Technician, who will be the primary contact throughout the current permit process.
- Step 2 – Pothole Location Map
  - Pothole location map will be provided by a Line Strike Avoidance Technician to the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor.
  - Locates must be verified against the pothole location map to ensure accurate location of underground infrastructure that was uncovered during the initial site excavation and infrastructure discovery.
  - If locates are not verified against the pothole location map, the Project Manager, General, or subcontractor must have potholes performed again to verify the location of underground infrastructure before excavation can be approved.
- Step 3 – Locates in Process
  - Locates have been requested and are currently in process. Assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will be in contact with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor until a site visit can be scheduled and performed.
- Step 4 – Site Visit
  - After locates are performed, assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will visit with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor on site to verify that all necessary locates have been completed for the current excavation site.
- Step 5 – Permit Approval
  - Once locates are verified complete, the Line Strike Avoidance Technician will approve the permit to proceed with excavation.
- Step 6 – Excavation
  - Once permitted to proceed the excavator will complete excavation of designated site.
- Step 7 – Data Point Collection – Exposed Utilities
  - During the excavation process and prior to backfilling, the Line Strike Avoidance Technician will gather data points on all exposed utilities within the excavation site.
  - Data Points Uploaded to ESRI.
- Step 8 – Backfilling
  - Work on exposed utilities is complete and area is being returned to previous operational conditions.
- Step 9 – Permit Closed
  - If another excavation is necessary within the project site, repeat steps 1-8 for each subsequent excavation, otherwise the current permit will be closed once the excavation is complete, data points have been collected, and backfilling has been completed.

### **Site Excavation Work Complete:**

- After excavation and backfilling are complete and the permit closed, the site is returned to normal operation.

### **\*Project Complete:**

- The Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor will submit As-Built data to UES for review, verification, and uploading to the ESRI database.



## **UES LINE STRIKE AVOIDANCE PROCEDURE – Short-Term Project Duration**

Note: Short-Term Duration refers to projects that generally take less than 1 month (< 30 days) to complete and may only require one locate ticket update. These projects typically involve the installation or repair of underground infrastructure on the Texas A&M University campus.

### **Locates Initiated:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration** (Locates Initiated).

### **Permit Process Initiated:**

- See (Permit Process Initiated) **Long-Term Project Duration**.

### **Site Excavation Permit Process:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration Procedures** (Steps 1-5).
- Step 6 – Excavation
  - Once excavation permit is approved, the excavator will complete excavation of designated site.
- Step 7 – Data Point Collection – Modification/Addition
  - During the excavation process and prior to backfilling, assigned technician will gather data points on any modifications or additions done on exposed utilities prior to backfilling.
  - Data Points Uploaded to ESRI.
- Step 8 – Backfilling
  - Work on exposed utilities is complete and area is being returned to previous operational conditions.
- Step 9 – Permit Closed
  - The permit will be closed once the excavation is complete, data points have been collected, and backfilling has been completed.

### **Site Excavation Work Complete:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration** (Site Excavation Work Complete).

### **\*Project Complete:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration** (Project Complete).



## **UES LINE STRIKE AVOIDANCE PROCEDURE – Emergency Excavations**

Note: The State of Texas defines an Emergency Excavation as one involving danger to life, health or property, thus, best locate practices are to be used until the emergency has been remedied. The work then falls under the Long-Term or Short-Term Line strike avoidance procedures.

### **Locates Initiated:**

- Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor coordinates identification of underground infrastructure of project site by requesting locates to be completed.
- Locates are requested through the Tx811 System.
- It is the responsibility of the project to pothole and positively identify all underground infrastructure within the project site during normal circumstances. During an emergency, potholing of the excavation site is not required, and best practices shall be maintained.

### **Permit Process Initiated:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration** (Permit Process Initiated).

### **Site Excavation Permit Process:**

- Step 1 – Locates in Process
  - Locates have been requested and are currently in process. Assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will be in contact with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor until an initial site visit can be scheduled and performed.
- Step 2 – Initial Site Visit and Permit Approval
  - After locates are completed, assigned Line Strike Avoidance Technician will visit with the Project Manager, General, or Subcontractor on site to verify that all necessary locates have been completed.
  - Line Strike Avoidance Technician will approve the emergency excavation permit.
- Step 3 – Excavation
  - Once locates have been completed, the excavator will complete excavation of designated site.
  - Emergency work/repairs to exposed infrastructure is completed as needed.
- Step 4 – Data Point Collection – Modification/Addition
  - Once work is complete, assigned technician will gather data points on any modifications or additions done on exposed utilities prior to backfilling.
  - Data Points Uploaded to ESRI.
- Step 5 – Backfilling
  - Work on exposed utilities is complete and area is being returned to previous operational conditions.
- Step 6 – Permit Closed
  - When the emergency repairs are made, data points have been collected, and backfilling has been completed, the emergency locate permit will be closed.
  - The project does not have to submit a new locate request if the emergency ticket is still valid and the work area located originally has not changed. Instead, the emergency permit will be rolled into a short/long term permit, and procedures should be followed accordingly.

### **Site Excavation Work Complete:**

- See **Long-Term Project Duration** (Site Excavation Work Complete).

**\*NOTE: If a locate is in conjunction with a construction project on campus, it is required that upon completion of the project, that as-built data be provided at the close of the project. This information will need to be reviewed, verified, and uploaded accordingly into the UES ESRI Database for future use.**