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Guidance Position Statement

Permanently Marking Buried Utility Lines

Statement of Purpose

The American Public Works Association (APWA) seeks to inform the public works community, its professionals and practitioners, policy-makers and decision-makers at all levels of government and the public at-large of its stated position on Permanently Coloring or Color-coding Buried Utility Facilities.

Statement of Position

The APWA urges that the predominant color of all new and replacement permanent underground utility line marker signs, sign posts, and buried line vents be in accordance with the APWA Uniform Color Code. The APWA additionally urges that wherever practical, the outside covering of buried cable, pipe, duct, or conduit be colored or color marked in accordance with the APWA Uniform Color Code. The APWA further urges that utility line owners and manufacturers of underground utility lines, cables, pipes, ducts, and conduits be encouraged to incorporate permanent markings in their products in accordance with the APWA Uniform Color Code. Finally, the APWA urges that United States and other governmental agencies adopt this APWA permanent color marking into their laws, codes of practice and regulations.

Background and Rationale

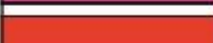
The APWA, through its Utilities and Public Rights-of-Way Committee (UPROW), has developed a uniform color code for temporarily marking the earth's surface above underground utility lines to enhance worker safety and minimize injury and damage during excavation. Excavators now generally recognize the uniform colors and their value in identifying the nature of subsurface utilities present on job sites. Worker injury or fatality and damage to utility and similar lines can be further minimized if permanent above-ground signs and vents that identify and warn of important underground lines are color coded. Furthermore, the outside covering of some underground utility and similar lines can and have been colored, and recognition of buried utilities exposed during excavation can be greatly enhanced if their outside covering is permanently color coded.

Sponsor

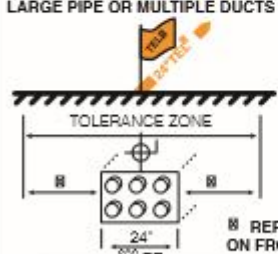
Utilities and Public Rights-of-Way Committee
APWA Board Approved June 8, 2018

APPENDIX – UNIFORM COLOR CODE

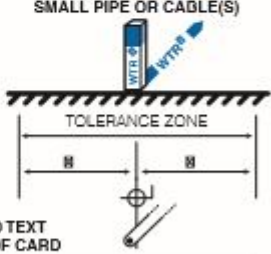
 **UNIFORM COLOR CODE**

	WHITE - Proposed Excavation
	PINK - Temporary Survey Markings
	RED - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
	YELLOW - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
	ORANGE - Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
	BLUE - Potable Water
	PURPLE - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
	GREEN - Sewers and Drain Lines

TYPICAL MARKING

LARGE PIPE OR MULTIPLE DUCTS


24"
600 mm

SMALL PIPE OR CABLE(S)


REFER TO TEXT
ON FRONT OF CARD

Customize with your center's
phone and address information