



Underground Telecommunications Infrastructure

Agenda

- DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division
- Overview of legislation – DLI's role
- Definitions
- Requirements for installation
- Certification standards
- Department resources

Who We Are

The Construction Codes and Licensing Division provides for the regulation and enforcement of construction-related health and safety codes and licensing laws in new and existing structures.

Building Plan Review

Plumbing Plan Review

Inspections

Permitting/Business

Licensing

Enforcement

Code Services

Manufactured Structures

- MN Statute 326B.198
 - Underground Telecommunications Infrastructure



- Subd. 1. Definitions
- For the purposes of this section:
- (1) "**directional drilling**" means a drilling method that utilizes a steerable drill bit to cut a bore hole for installing underground utilities;



- Subd. 1. **Definitions**
- **For the purposes of this section:**
- (1) "**directional drilling**" means a drilling method that utilizes a steerable drill bit to cut a bore hole for installing underground utilities;
- (2) "**safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer**" means a person who has completed underground utilities installation certification under subdivision 3;



- **Subd. 1. Definitions**
- **For the purposes of this section:**
- (1) **"directional drilling"** means a drilling method that utilizes a steerable drill bit to cut a bore hole for installing underground utilities;
- (2) **"safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer"** means a person who has completed underground utilities installation certification under subdivision 3;
- (3) **"underground telecommunications utilities"** means buried broadband, telephone and other telecommunications transmission, distribution and service lines, and associated facilities; and



- Subd. 1. **Definitions**
- **For the purposes of this section:**
- (1) "**directional drilling**" means a drilling method that utilizes a steerable drill bit to cut a bore hole for installing underground utilities;
- (2) "**safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer**" means a person who has completed underground utilities installation certification under subdivision 3;
- (3) "**underground telecommunications utilities**" means buried broadband, telephone and other telecommunications transmission, distribution and service lines, and associated facilities; and
- (4) "**underground utilities**" means buried electric transmission and distribution lines, gas and hazardous liquids pipelines and distribution lines, sewer and water pipelines, telephone or telecommunications lines, and associated facilities.

- **Installation requirements**
- (a) The installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is **located within ten feet of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:**



- **Installation requirements**
- (a) The installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is located **within ten feet** of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:
 - **(1) Near the location of existing utilities, by hand- or hydro-excavation or other accepted methods must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer;**

- **Installation requirements**
- (a) The installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is located within ten feet of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:
 - (1) the location of existing utilities by hand- or hydro-excavation or other accepted methods must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer;
 - **(2) where telecommunications infrastructure is installed by means of directional drilling, the monitoring of the location and depth of the drill head must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer; and**

- **Installation requirements**
- (a) The installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is located within ten feet of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:
 - (1) the location of existing utilities by hand- or hydro-excavation or other accepted methods must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer;
 - (2) where telecommunications infrastructure is installed by means of directional drilling, the monitoring of the location and depth of the drill head must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer; and
 - **(3) no fewer than two safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers must be present at all times at any location where telecommunications infrastructure is being installed by means of directional drilling.**

- **Installation requirements**
- **(b) Beginning July 1, 2025, all installations of underground telecommunications infrastructure subject to this subdivision within the seven-county metropolitan area must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers.**

- **Installation requirements**
- (b) Beginning July 1, 2025, all installations of underground telecommunications infrastructure subject to this subdivision within the seven-county metropolitan area must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers.
- **(c) Beginning January 1, 2026, all installations of underground telecommunications infrastructure subject to this subdivision within this state must be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers.**

326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(a) The commissioner of Labor and Industry, in consultation with the Office of Broadband, shall approve standards for a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer certification program that requires a person to:



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(1) complete a **40-hour initial course that includes classroom and hands-on instruction** covering proper work procedures for safe installation of underground utilities, including:



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(i) regulations applicable to **excavation** near existing utilities;



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(ii) identification, location, and verification of existing utility lines



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(ii) identification, location, and **verification of utility lines** using **hand- or hydro-excavation** or other accepted methods;



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

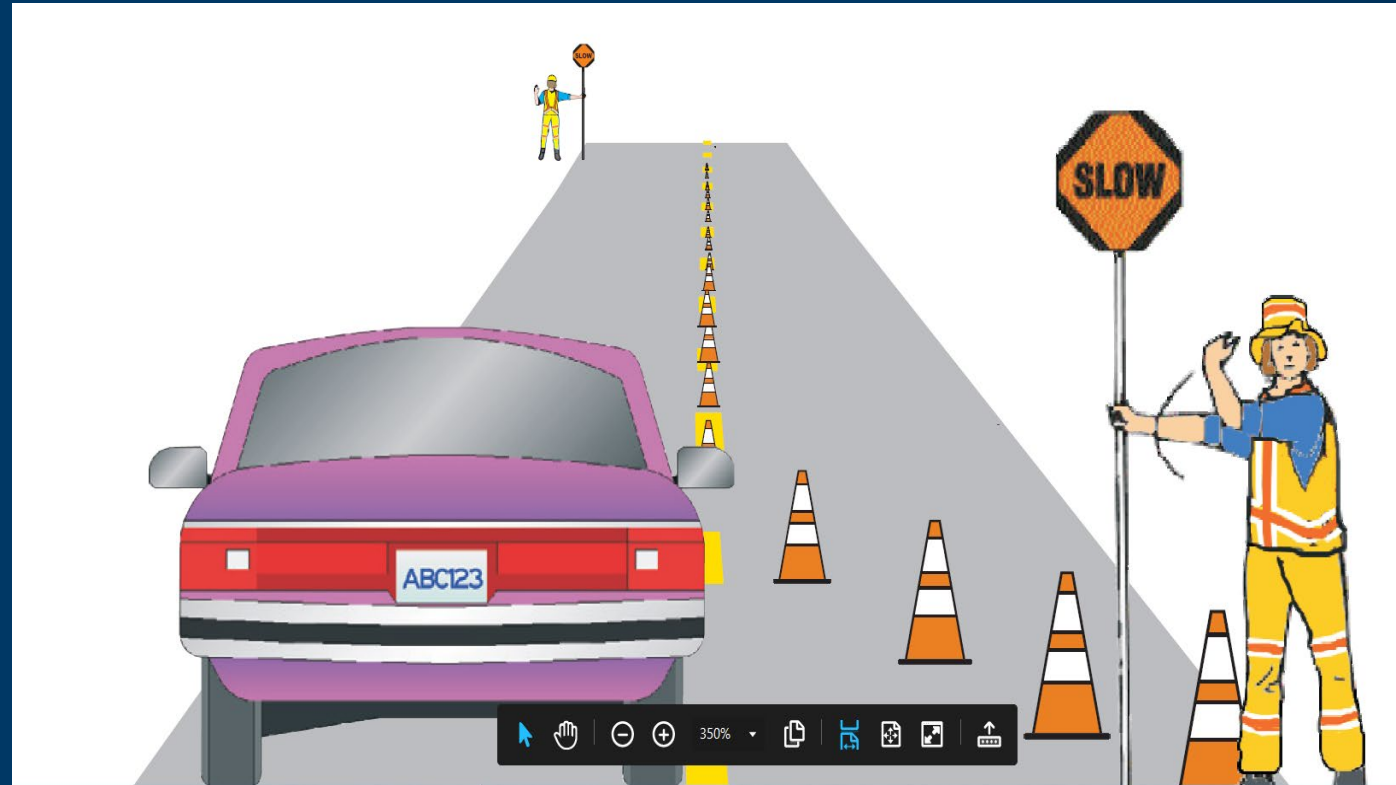
(iii) response to **line strike incidents**;



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(iv) **traffic control** procedures;



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(v) **use of a tracking device** to safely guide directional drill equipment along a drill path; and

(vi) **avoidance and mitigation of safety hazards** posed by underground utility installation projects.



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(2) demonstrate knowledge of the course material by **successfully completing an examination** approved by the commissioner; and



Certification Standards

(3) **complete a four-hour refresher course** within three years of completing the original course and **every three years thereafter** in order to maintain certification.



326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(b) The commissioner must develop an approval process for training providers under this subdivision **and may suspend or revoke the approval of any training provider that fails to demonstrate consistent delivery of approved curriculum** or success in preparing participants to complete the examination.

326B.198 - UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Certification Standards

(b) The commissioner must develop an approval process for training providers under this subdivision and may suspend or revoke the approval of any training provider that fails to demonstrate consistent delivery of approved curriculum or success in preparing participants to complete the examination.

DLI will review course materials for the initial course, exam, and the 4-hour refresher course.

Department Resources



www.dli.mn.gov



Enter "Broadband" into the search engine



[DIRECTIONS](#) [CONTACT US](#)

Broadband

[ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT](#) [FOR BUSINESS](#) [FOR WORKERS](#)



[MAKE A PAYMENT](#)

[APPLY FOR OR RENEW A LICENSE](#)

[GET A PERMIT](#)

[CHECK A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION](#)



[FOR BUSINESSES](#)



[FOR WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC](#)



[SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK](#)



[WORKERS' COMPENSATION](#)



[MINNESOTA STATE BUILDING CODES](#)

The 2024 Minnesota Commercial Energy



[WORKER RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS](#)

Information about earned sick and safe

Additional Information/Links

More info:

- [Frequently asked questions and answers](#)

Additional Information/Links

re information

- Frequently asked questions and answers
- Checklist for safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers

Additional Information/Links

More info:

- [Frequently asked questions and answers](#)
- [Checklist for safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers](#)
- [Draft curriculum](#)

Additional Information/Links

- [Frequently asked questions and answers](#)
- [Checklist for safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers](#)
- [Draft curriculum](#)
- [Draft course outline](#)

Questions

Contact Don Sivigny at 651-284-5874 or via email at

don.sivigny@state.mn.us