



Date: 2/4/21

RE: Proposal to add exemptions to the current Damage Prevention Law 55-210

To whom it may concern,  
I hereby propose additional exemptions to the damage prevention law as follows.

\*Excavations of less than fifteen inches in vertical depth within a utility easement while digging with hand tools(such as a shovel)

\*Excavations of less than fifteen inches in vertical depth outside of the utility easement while digging with hand tools(such as a shovel).

This proposal would not relieve the excavator from any liabilities or repairs if utilities were damaged.

Our company provides sprinkler service calls to over 1,200 commercial accounts annually here in the Boise area and about the same in the Nampa area. Part of the services we perform is repairing sprinkler heads and/or fixing broken pipes. We generally employ 14-15 technicians that can cover anywhere from 10-15 accounts, each, per day. That would cause as many as 200-250 calls per day. I have talked with several companies locally who do not call for utility locates to perform sprinkler repairs, even though it is the law. I did not know it was illegal to dig by hand without a digline until recent events which caused me to study the law a little better.

The purpose of proposing these exemptions is to eliminate the extraordinary volume of calls that would be generated by every company in the valley, calling in to mark properties so they could fix a few sprinkler heads. Usually when we call in for a utility locate during the summer months, it takes longer than the 2 business days to get them marked. We have started calling a week in advance on most of them to prevent delays in the schedules. If every sprinkler company in Idaho called for a digline every time they went out to fix a broken sprinkler head, could you imagine how over-run the system would be? Thank You for your time in reviewing this proposal.

Sincerely

Shayne Geib

Construction Operations Manager

Cutting Edge Landscape