

Know what's below. 811 

Call 811 before you dig.

BLUE STAKES OF UTAH
UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

www.bluestakes.org
1-800-662-4111



**“THE DIG LAW IN UTAH –
HOW IT WORKS”**



BLUE STAKES OF UTAH
UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to promote public safety, protect underground facilities, and minimize service interruptions by processing locate requests and providing damage prevention education. We accomplish this as the communications link between excavators and facility owners as the statewide one-call center in providing efficient and cost effective customer service."

EXCAVATORS' GUIDE

INCLUDING DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND UTILITY
FACILITIES ACT AS AMENDED THROUGH 2011.

PUBLISHED APRIL 2011

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



BLUE STAKES OF UTAH
UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

DEFINITIONS

- **“Excavator” means any person or entity that excavates or conducts excavation activities – 54-8a-2(5)**
- **“Operator” means a person who owns, operates, or maintains an underground facility – 54-8a-2(10)(a)**

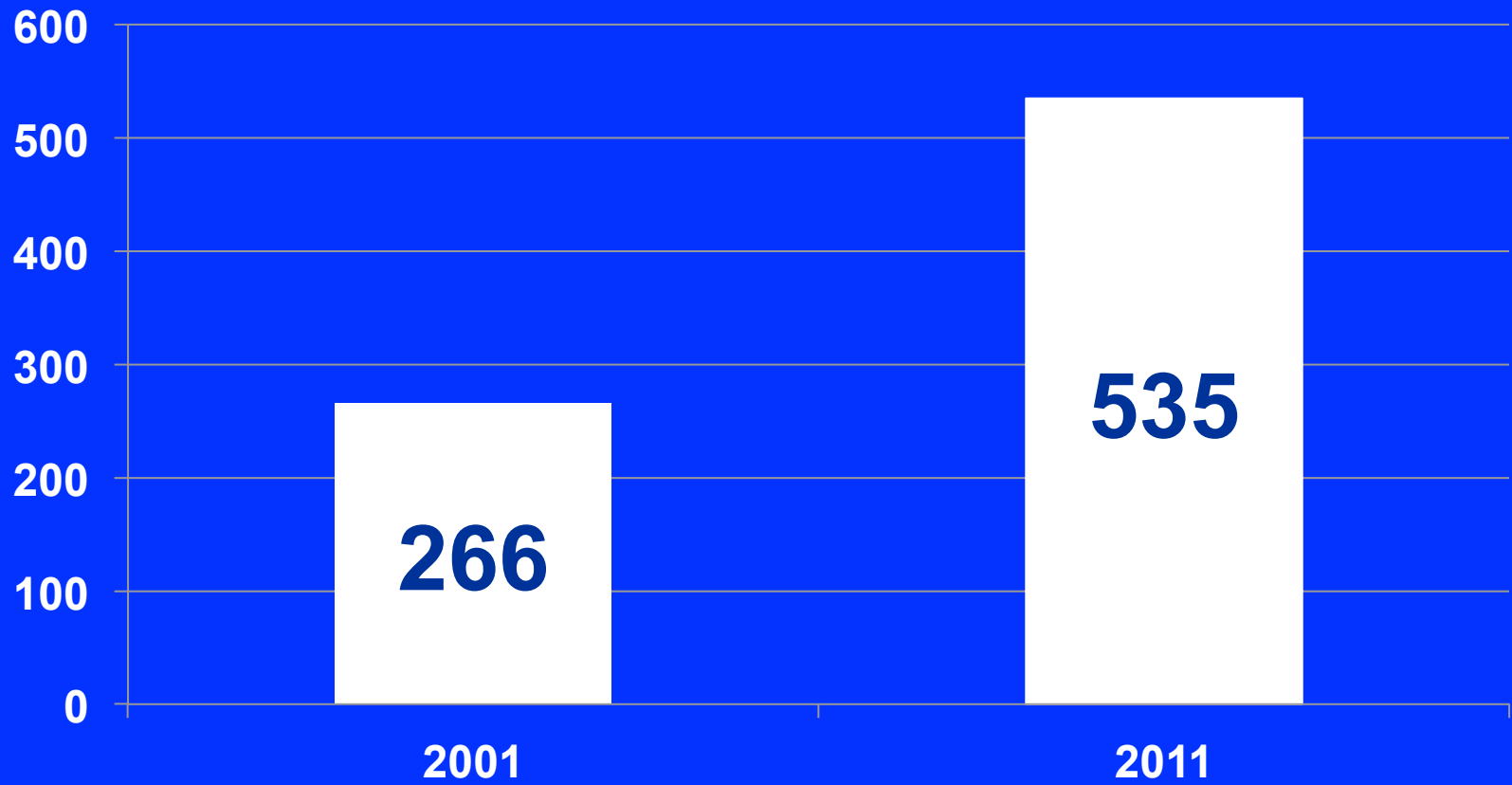
ASSOCIATION

- **If an association is formed, each operator with an underground facility in the area shall become a member of the association – 54-8a-9(1)(b)(i)**
- **If an operator does not comply, the operator is liable for damages incurred by an excavator who complies with this chapter's requirements – 54-8a-9(a)(b)(ii)**

HISTORY

- **Blue Stakes of Utah was established in 1974 and charged with the purpose of reducing damages to underground facilities and ensuring public safety.**
- **Original Membership - 3 Member Utilities**

PARTICIPATING UTILITIES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Associated General Contractors**
- **Central Davis Sewer District**
- **CenturyLink**
- **Chevron Pipe Line Company**
- **Comcast**
- **Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District**
- **Questar Gas**
- **Rocky Mountain Power**
- **Salt Lake City Public Utilities**
- **Utah Rural Electric Association**
- **UTOPIA**
- **Verizon Business**

NOTICE OF EXCAVATION

- **Before excavating, an excavator shall notify each operator with an underground facility in the area of the proposed excavation – 54-8a-4(1)(a)**
- **If there is an association in the county, notice to that association constitutes notice to each operator that has facilities within the proposed excavation site – 54-8a-4(5)**

NOTICE OF EXCAVATION

- **The requirements do not apply:**
 - If there is an emergency;
 - While gardening; or
 - While tilling private ground

54-8a-4(1)(b)
- **The notice required shall be given not:**
 - Less than 48 hours before excavation begins
 - More than 14 days before excavation begins

54-8a-4(2)(b)

NOTICE OF EXCAVATION

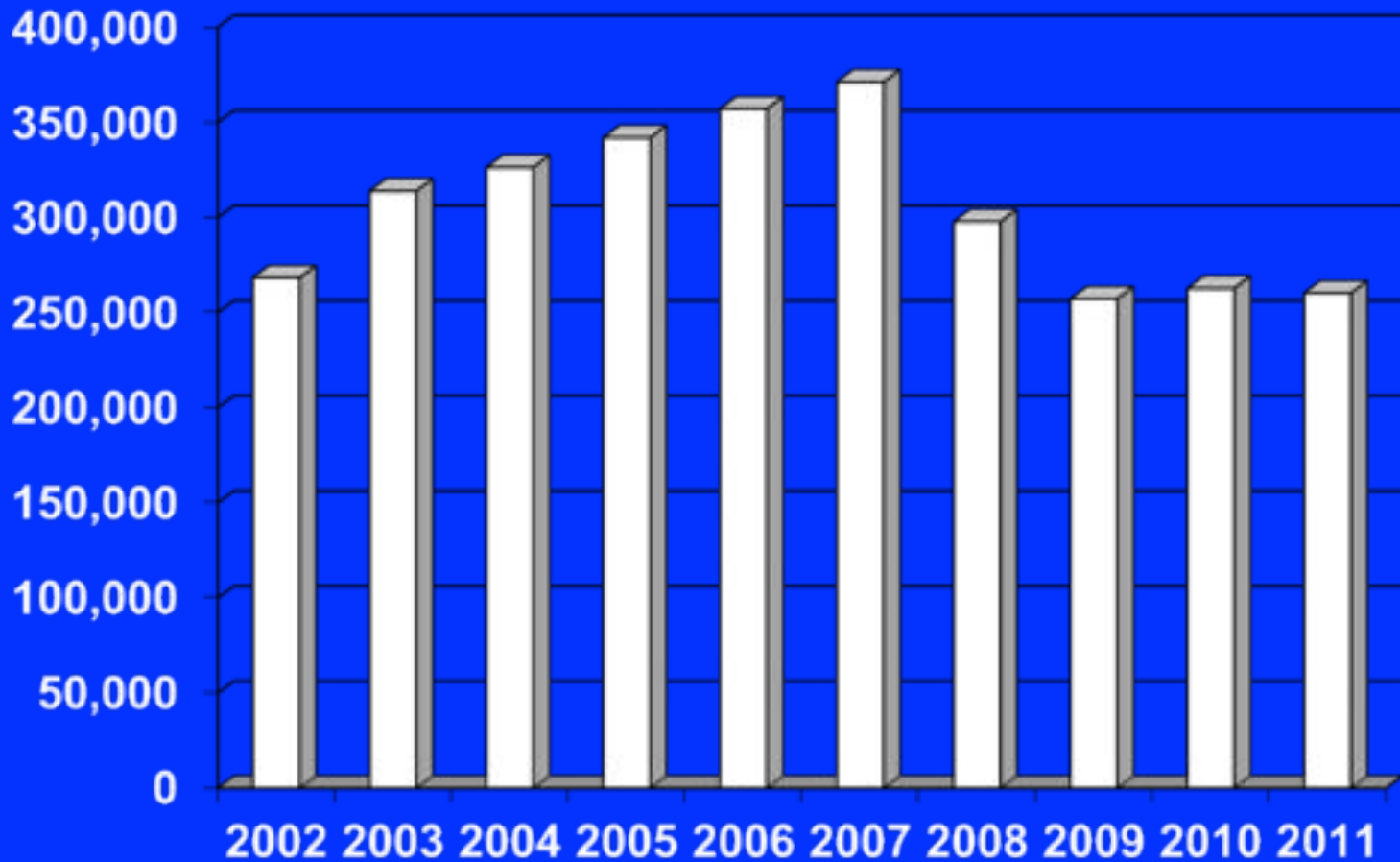
- Notice given under this section is valid for 14 days from the day of which the notice is given – 54-8a-4(6)(a)



Know what's below.

Call before you dig.

TICKET VOLUME



MARKING OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES

- **Within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice required, the operator shall:**
 - **Mark the location of its underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation; or**
 - **Notify the excavator, that the operator does not have any underground facility in the area of the proposed excavation**

54-8a-5(1)(a)(i)(ii)

MARKING OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES

- **The underground facility shall be marked using as a guideline the Uniform Color Code and Marking Guidelines, Appendix B, published by the Common Ground Alliance –
54-8a-5(1)(b)**

DETERMINING THE PRECISE LOCATION OF MARKED UNDERGROUND FACILITIES

- An excavator may not use any power operated or power driven excavation boring equipment within 24 inches of the markings made – 54-8a-5.5(1)**

NOTICE OF DAMAGE – REPAIRS

- **If an excavator contacts or damages an underground facility, the excavator shall:**
 - **Immediately notify the appropriate operator; and**
 - **Immediately call 911 if the excavation may result in an immediate risk to human life**
- 54-8a-7(1)(a)(b)**

CIVIL PENALTY FOR DAMAGE

- **A civil penalty may be imposed on any person who violates this chapter in an amount no greater than \$5,000 for each violation with a maximum civil penalty of \$100,000 per excavation – 54-8a-8(2)(a)**
- **An excavator who fails to provide notice of an excavation in an amount no greater than \$500 – 54-8a-8(2)(b)**

CIVIL PENALTY FOR DAMAGE

- A civil penalty may be imposed on any person who violates this chapter in an amount no greater than \$5,000 for each violation with a maximum civil penalty of \$100,000 per excavation – 54-8a-8(2)(a)
- An excavator who fails to provide notice of an excavation in an amount no greater than \$500 – 54-8a-8(2)(b)

ENFORCEMENT – ATTORNEY GENERAL

- **The attorney general may bring an action in district court located in the county in which the excavation is located to enforce this chapter – 54-8a-12(1)(a)**
- **If the attorney general does not bring an action, the operator or excavator may pursue any remedy, including a civil penalty – 54-8a-12(1)(c)**

DAMAGES ATTRIBUTABLE TO NO ONE CALL MADE



- | <u>Year</u> | <u>Nation</u> | <u>Utah</u> |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 2006 | 38% | 48% |
| 2007 | 35% | 44% |
| 2008 | 40% | 38% |
| 2009 | 28% | 30% |
| 2010 | 32% | 27% |

REMEMBER

Know what's **below.** **811**



Call 811 before you dig.

BLUE STAKES OF UTAH

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

www.bluestakes.org

1-800-662-4111