Locating Water and Sewer Lines

The Kenosha Water Utility, in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 182.0175, responds to all requests for utility locating in our service area. Requests are made by calling the Diggers Hotline, one call system. Anyone that is planning on digging, excavating, or otherwise disturbing the soil is required, by law, to call and request a “locate” for the work area. Once a request has been called in, each utility company has three business days to respond and mark the location of their underground services.

What gets located?
Any water or sanitary sewer line that the KWU maintains, and may be in conflict with the proposed work area is marked. A work area may be as small as a post for a mailbox, or as large as an entire subdivision.

Privately owned services, like irrigation systems are not located by the Water Utility. This includes the portion of the domestic water line, from the curb shut-off valve to the home. Similarly, the sanitary lateral, which runs from the main line to the home, is considered private, and is only marked where it connects to the sanitary main.

What do the colors mean?
The American Public Works Association has established a uniform color code for different utilities to use when marking the location of their underground devices. Water lines are marked with blue paint and flags, and sanitary sewer lines are marked with green. Other utilities will use other colors, like yellow for gas lines or red for electric lines. In some instances, a translucent “All Clear” flag may be used to indicate that a particular utility is not located within the work area. Flags will also have identification information printed on them. Kenosha Water Utility flags bear our logo and phone number.

Why was a Locate done?
A locate request can be made by anyone. Examples may include a landscaper preparing to plant shrubs, or a cable T.V. company doing work near a pole in your yard. Marks in the roadway may be in preparation for utility work or street repairs. There may also be multiple projects happening at the same time. If you find one of our flags and you would like to find out who made the request and why, you can call the KWU Engineering division at 262-653-4315.

How else can I get information?
The KWU maintains information on all water and sanitary lines in our system. Any questions can be directed to the Engineering division at 262-653-4315, or by visiting our offices at 4401 Green Bay road.

Contact Diggers Hotline - 3 working days before you dig, 1-800-242-8511