

Frequently Asked Questions - LOCATES

What is a locate?

A locate is either a colored flag or a paint marking placed in the ground that is used to identify where an underground utility line is. The paint is environmentally-friendly and washes off in time, and flags are removeable after they are no longer needed. Construction crews will decide which locate type is needed for the project. For example, locate flags are used if there can be a chance of snow and they still need to keep that location tagged.

Why are locates placed in my neighborhood?

Our locating crews work to place locators to mark existing utility lines. As we gear up to install the 100% fiber-optic network, it is important that we know where existing utilities are so we can avoid them during the process. The flag or paint markers ensure that any work done does not negatively affect power, water, storm water or natural gas lines. Locates will be placed a couple of weeks prior to construction work being done.

What do the colors on the flag or paint markings mean?

Common Ground Alliance, a national organization, has created the resource 811 "Call Before You Dig" which lists the following color identifiers for locates:

- Orange** – Communications line
- Yellow** – Natural gas line
- Red** – Electric Line
- Blue** – Water Line
- Green** – Wastewater Line
- Purple** – Storm Drain
- Pink** – Engineering survey mark

How much notice do I get before locate flags are placed in my yard?

Public rights of way allow utility representatives to enter for repair, maintenance or other work so there is no notice required. However, all Loveland residents will received notification through the mail and through door hangers notifying them that construction is coming to the area in a few weeks. That notification means that locates will start showing up soon as part of the process. Those that signed up for early enrollment

notifications will get construction updates emailed directly one week before construction.

Can I remove the locate flags?

Please leave the locate flags in place because they're protecting other utility lines from harm.

How long will the flags be in place?

Locate flags may be in place for up to 30 days before needing to be re-authorized. Our teams will remove them when the project has been completed.

How do I know if a locate flag has been in place for too long?

The Utility Notification Center of Colorado (1-800-922-1987) can tell you how long a flag has been in place and if it's safe to remove.

Will the marker paint wash off?

Yes, the paint is water soluble and will wash off in time.

Who should I contact about locate flags or markers?

For additional information or concerns about the flags and their placement please call our construction hotline at 970-798-8800.

