

# Safety Talk

MARCH 2023



## VISUAL INSPECTION OF SPRINKLERS

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25 requires annual visual inspections of sprinkler heads. An annual frequency is defined as occurring once per year with a minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 15 months between inspections. A key specification in the standard is that the visual inspections are intended to be conducted from the floor level. This means that typically there should be no special equipment needed for these routine inspections such as ladders or lifts. In addition, NFPA 25 clearly states that sprinklers located in concealed spaces such as above suspended ceilings do not require inspections.

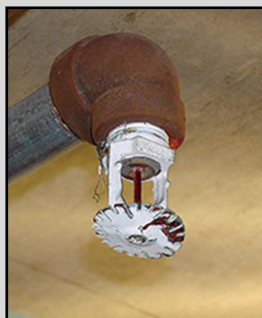
The following are items that NFPA 25 includes as part of the visual inspection for sprinklers:

- Look for water leaks from the sprinkler head
- Make sure sprinkler heads do not show signs of corrosion
- Look for any physical damage
- Look for any loss of fluid in the glass bulb heat-responsive element
- Make sure sprinkler heads have not been painted
- Make sure sprinklers have been installed in the correct orientation
- Look for minimum clearance to storage items (18" minimum)
- Make sure the sprinkler escutcheon plate is in place
- Sprinkler heads should be clean and free of dust and dirt debris

### NFPA 25 Violation Examples



Corrosion



Paint on Sprinkler Head



Dirt on Sprinkler Head



Escutcheon Plate Missing

## AVOIDING UTILITY STRIKES

Utility strikes occur when underground utilities are hit during excavation work. Avoiding these strikes is crucial. Hitting or damaging utilities such as gas, electricity or other networks results in costly repairs and major service disruptions. They may also expose workers to serious injury and sometimes even death. However, with the right planning, there are ways that you can prevent utility strikes from happening and ensure safety for your team and local residents.

### What Are Utility Strikes?

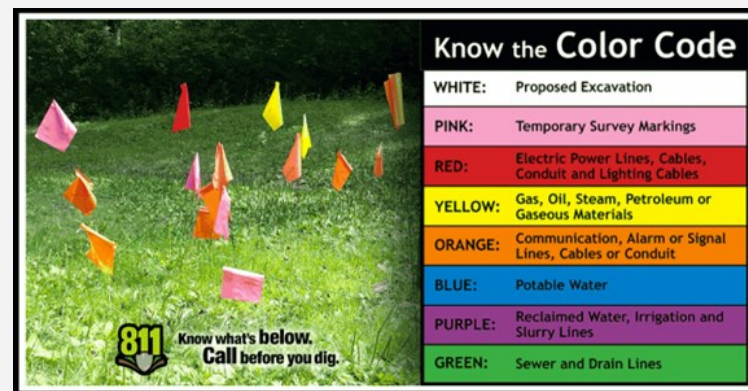
Utility Strikes are any damages that occur during excavation to either gas pipelines, electricity cables, telecommunications networks, storm water drains, sewage systems and other services.

### Steps To Avoid Utility Strikes

1. Call before you dig.



2. Know the color codes for utilities.



3. Once utilities have been identified, you should still dig slowly and dig trial hole to carefully expose and identify their locations.
4. Ensure that your excavation team has received the correct training.
5. If there is clear evidence of an unmarked utility in the proposed excavation area, the excavator MUST call 811 to report the unmarked line before excavating. Once the second notice is given, excavation may begin.

## AVOIDING INJURY FROM AN OBJECT

One of the leading causes of work-related injuries is contact with objects. This could include:

- Struck against an object.
- Struck by an object.
- Caught in an object or equipment.
- Caught in collapsing material.

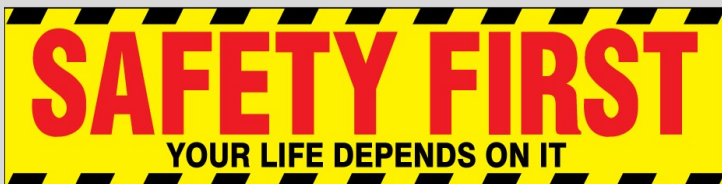
Objects that fall, roll, fly, slide, slip and swing can do serious damage to a person. Workers in agriculture, construction and manufacturing are most at risk.

### These Injuries can be Prevented.

Inattention to surroundings and being distracted can lead to injury, as does faulty equipment, lack of proper training, improper behavior by workers, or lack of workplace assessments and housekeeping.

Paying attention is vitally important for those operating machinery, as well as those working around it. The following are tips employees can use to help prevent injury from contact with objects:

- Securely and neatly store loose materials.
- Secure items that are stored at a height.
- Store heavy objects close to the floor.
- Never reach into a machine or around a machine guard.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment for your environment, such as steel-toed shoes, and eye protection etc.
- Always walk behind moving equipment if possible.
- Never obstruct your vision by overloading moving equipment.
- Only operate equipment you are properly trained to use.
- Make sure all safety devices on your equipment are in good working order before use.
- Use extra caution around corners and near doorways.
- When large equipment is being operated, always make eye contact with the operator before approaching.
- Secure all loads and lift them evenly to prevent them from slipping.



## OSHA RECORDKEEPING RULE

As a reminder, the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) requires notification about certain workplace incidents. This notification has defined time limits. So, here is the information:

OSHA's updated recordkeeping rule expands the list of severe injuries that employers must report to TOSHA. As of January 1, 2015, all employers must report:

1. All work-related fatalities within 8 hours.
2. All work-related inpatient hospitalizations, all amputations, and all losses of an eye within 24 hours.

### TOSHA Reporting Options:

1. Calling TOSHA's free and confidential number at 800-249-8510 or, after hours, by calling the national OSHA call service at 800-321-OSHA (6742).
2. Calling your closest local TOSHA office during normal business hours.

#### Nashville (Central) Office

(615) 741-2793

#### Jackson Local Office

(731) 423-5640

#### Knoxville Local Office

(865) 594-6180

#### Chattanooga Local Office

(423) 634-6424

#### Gray Local Office

(423) 854-5158

#### Memphis Local Office

(901) 543-7259

3. [Completing this online report -- click here to fill out report](#)

Only fatalities occurring within 30 days of the work-related incident must be reported to OSHA. Further, for an in-patient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye, these incidents must be reported to OSHA only if they occur within 24 hours of the work-related incident.

## MARCH 2023 QUIZ

### TRUE or FALSE

1. Sprinklers are required to be inspected once every two years.
2. Call 811 before you start any excavation work.
3. A yellow utility flag indicates an electrical hazard.
4. Always walk in front of moving equipment when possible
5. It is not necessary to report a work-related hospitalization.

### Answers

1. False 2. True 3. False 4. False 5. False