MYTH 1
 Depths of utilities can be assumed.
 Locator depths are approximate. Utilities must be exposed to verify location and depth.

MYTH 2
 It will never happen to me.
 Utility strikes happen every day. The risk is too great to depend on chance.

MYTH 3
 Exposing just to the depth of the existing utility is enough.
Potholing is a recommended best practice to expose any cross bores or additional lines.

MYTH 4
 Continue to dig if nothing is found under locate mark.
 If no lines are found, get another locate or contact the facility owner.

MYTH 5
 Sewer lines don’t need to be or cannot be located.
 Several methods exist for locating sewage lines. Technology makes it easier to locate lines and verify they weren’t breached.

For more information, visit www.aem.org/uua
MYTH 6
No locate marks = no utilities.
If there are no marks, this could mean it was not yet located. Inspect the area for evidence of underground activity.

MYTH 7
If something happens after I call 811, they are liable.
811 does not locate utilities. It’s the responsibility of the excavator to verify locates have been completed and are correct.

MYTH 8
Exposing utilities (potholing) is included as part of the contract price.
This should not be assumed. It’s recommended to separate this activity from drilling in the quote.

MYTH 9
We have to accept whatever the caller gives us.
When a contractor calls the call center or utility, both parties should provide sufficient details so an accurate and complete locate can be made.

MYTH 10
Abandoned lines don’t need precautions.
Some abandoned lines are used as conduits for new utilities. Abandoned lines may be plugged on one end, but still connected to service on the other.

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