



Dear Resident,

We received a request and visited your property today to mark utilities. You will notice various colors of flags. Columbia Township is responsible for the sewer system and the green and red flags identify the piping and electrical connections respectively.

PLEASE LEAVE ALL THE FLAGS IN THE GROUND UNTIL WORK IS COMPLETE.

Why is this important?

- **Safety:** Removing flags puts people at risk of hitting buried utility lines, which can lead to serious injuries, service disruptions, and costly repairs.
- **Legal Compliance:** Michigan law requires utility lines to be Marked before excavation to prevent damage and ensure safety.
- **Protecting Infrastructure:** Utility flags are crucial for protecting Vital underground infrastructure like gas pipelines and communication cables.

According to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 460.731:

- **It is a misdemeanor to willfully remove or destroy stakes or other Physical markings used to indicate the approximate location of underground facilities, unless the removal or destruction occurs after the excavation or blasting is completed or is an expected consequence of the excavation or blasting activity. Violators can face a fine of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for up to 1 year, or both.**
- The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) can also order additional training to ensure future compliance with the law.
- Do not remove flags until the excavation is complete.
- If flags were removed accidentally (e.g., by children), do not try to replace them yourself. Call the number below or MISS DIG 811.

We appreciate your cooperation. Please contact us at 517-592-2000 if you have questions.

**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**