PRM-004 Excavation

Effective Date Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Status Final

Last Revised Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Policy Type University

Contact Office Facilities Management

Oversight Executive
Senior Vice President for Operations

Applies To Academic Division and the Medical Center.

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Reason for Policy

The University is committed to (1) protecting people, property, and underground utility services (the buried networks of pipes, cables, and conduits that deliver essential resources like water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications, etc.) to University and Medical Center facilities; and (2) complying with the Code of Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act and other local codes.

Definition of Terms

Excavation

Description

Any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives and includes, without limitation, grading, trenching, digging, ditching, dredging, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing and driving, wrecking, razing, rendering, moving, or removing any structure or mass of material.

University Medical Center (Medical Center)

Description

The hospital and buildings that are University property in which health care, research, administrative support, and ancillary services are provided that are owned or leased by the University. (Also referred to as the Health System.)

University Property

Description

Land or buildings that the University owns or leases and that is under the control of the Board of Visitors. University property also includes premises the University uses for activities of its offices, departments, personnel, or students.

Policy Statement

Any excavations on University property or at the University Medical Center must comply with the Code of Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act and other applicable local codes. Because most University and Medical Center utilities are located underground, digging can damage buried utilities and result in serious safety hazards to workers, damage to utilities and property, and service interruptions.

All excavations require a cleared VA811 excavation ticket issued by the VA811 Call Center prior to any excavation on University or Medical Center property. The VA811 Call Center will contact Facilities Management for assistance in locating utilities on University or Medical Center property when a ticket is requested.

Compliance with Policy:
Failure to comply with the requirements of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination in accordance with relevant University policies.

Direct questions about this policy to Facilities Management.

Procedures

To request an excavation ticket, call 811 or 1-800-552-7001. Visit the VA811 Call Center website for more information.

Related Information

University Design Guidelines; Chapter 2 Historic Preservation, Section 2.2 Preservation Guidelines, Item Number 7, pg. 27: "Archaeology must be incorporated into projects involving ground disturbances."

Major Category Physical Resource Management

Next Scheduled Review Saturday, April 21, 2029

Revision History
Revised to comply with State law 4/21/26; Added Compliance section 7/21/21.

Supercedes Policy Text
XIII.C.1 Facilities Management - Utilities Services.

Approved By Policy Review Committee

Approved Date Wednesday, January 18, 2006