

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## Knowing the Marks

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job Site/Project \_\_\_\_\_

Marks placed the utility locator are your guide to what's buried underground. It is your duty as a contractor or excavator to understand these marks and use them to avoid hitting buried facilities. Here is an overview of how to interpret basic locator marks.

- Utility lines should be indicated by markings using the APWA color codes.



RED

Power Lines, Cables,  
Conduit and Lighting Cables



YELLOW

Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum  
or Gaseous Materials



ORANGE

Communication, Alarm or  
Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit



BLUE

Potable Water



GREEN

Sewer and Drain Lines



PURPLE

Reclaimed Water, Irrigation  
and Slurry Lines



PINK

Temporary Survey Mark/  
Proposed Excavation on Snow

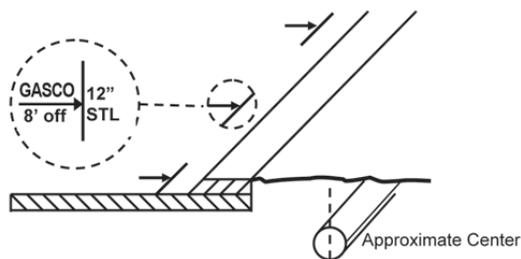


WHITE

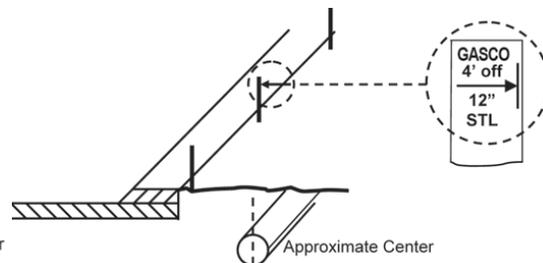
Proposed Excavation

- The facility owner should be indicated by initials or the company name at the beginning and end of the locate. When known, the size of the line, material and pressure (if applicable) should be indicated.
- Changes in direction or lateral connections should be marked clearly where the change in direction or connection occurs with arrows indicating the path of the facility
- Offset markings may be used when facilities can not be marked along the centerline. When offset marks are use the length of offset should be marked along with the facility owner, and line size/material.

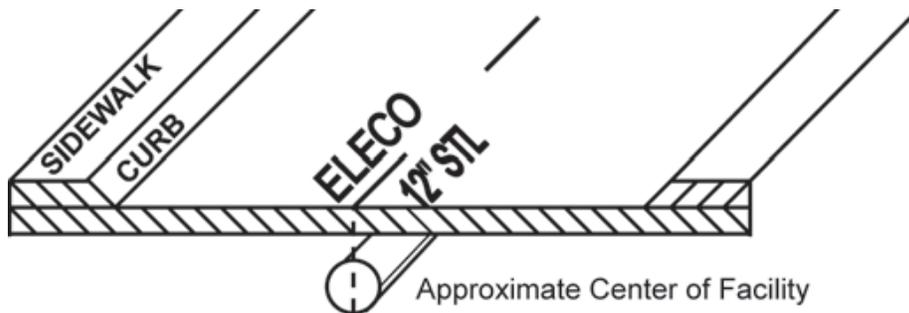
Painted Offset Example



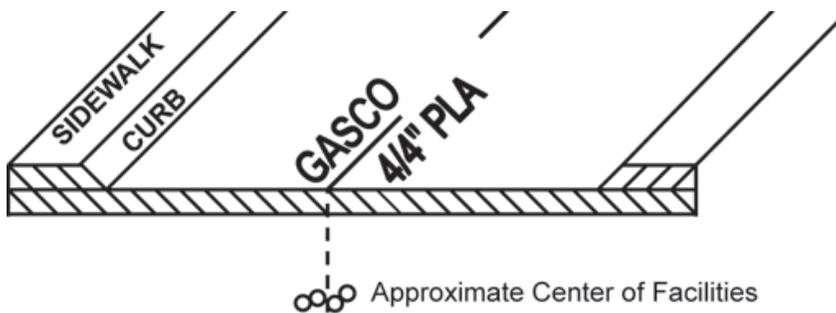
Staked Offset Example



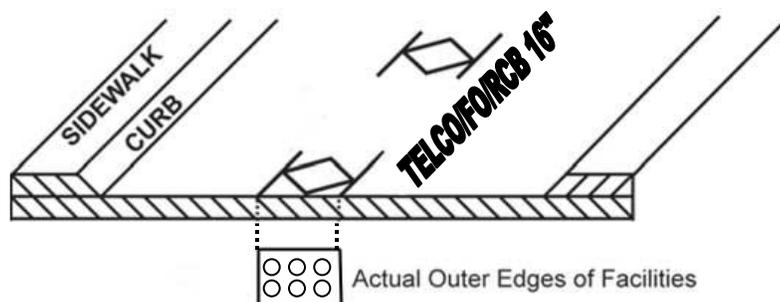
- Single facilities are marked with a single line placed over the center of the facility. This example indicates an operator's 12" steel facility.



- Multiple facility markings are used when facilities of the same type are too close together to locate individually and when the number and size of facility is known. A mark is placed over the approximate centerline of the facilities and the number and size of facilities is indicated. In this example the marks indicate four 4" plastic lines.



- Conduit markings are used for any facility being carried inside conduits or ducts. The marks indicating the outer extremities denote the actual located edges of the facilities. Below is an example of six fiber optic lines inside a 16" concrete duct.



Attendees

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