## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating - Theory



- Line Locating is NOT Metal Detection.
- Line Locating is based on principles of Electromagnetism.
- A flow of electrons in one direction creates a magnetic field in a perpendicular direction.
- Nearest the flow of electrons, the field is strongest, dissipating with distance, like the ripples on a pond.
- A Line Locating machine is an Electromagnetic Field Detector. If it is near an Electromagnetic Field, it can detect it, and through a certain procedure can try to pinpoint its center.
- The center of the field can be marked at surface, and it is assumed that this is close to the center of the buried facility creating the field.
- If this is done at intervals, alignment may be assumed as well, and a line can be marked out, or otherwise followed.

## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating – Inductive Sweep



- There are two types of Line Locating. Direct and Inductive.
- Inductive Locating can produce locates without previous knowledge of buried facilities, and is commonly called the "Blind Sweep".
- Inductive Locating is performed by a team of two, one with a Transmitter, and one with a Receiver.
- If they walk across an energized buried facility at roughly the same time, they will recognize it, and will be able to mark it, and thereafter follow it.

## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating- Solid State Antennae





## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating- 4-Way Inductive Sweep



 Because each particular "Sweep" can only reliably pick up perpendicular buried facilities for 90 Degrees out of 360 Degrees, four different sweeps or sweep angles must be performed throughout the Search Area to maximize the effectiveness of the procedure.

This is why the Inductive or "Blind" sweep is also often called the "4-way Sweep".

### Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating- Positional Errors



A facility that changes alignment unexpectedly can foul the Line Locate.
 Inductive Line Locating can fail.

## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating- Terminal Point Errors



•A facility that terminates unexpectedly in the Search Area can foul the Line Locate. Inductive Line Locating can fail.

#### Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating - Electromagnetic Interference

- Electromagnetic

   Interference can
   interfere with the
   accuracy of, or foul a
   Line Locate.
- Inductive Line Locating can fail.



## Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating Accuracy

- NEVER trust a depth reading taken with an electromagnetic device.
- The ONLY way to confirm the true depth of a buried facility is by "Positive Identification". That means a visual.
- NEVER trust that the position of a Line Locating mark is directly over the target.
- Line Locating markings are approximate. This introduces the Enbridge 10 / 2 / 1 Rule.
- No mechanical excavation will occur WHATSOEVER within 10' of any buried facility until that facility has been Positively Identified (visually).
- NOBODY will trust a Line Locate to be accurate within 10'.

# Elements of Ground Disturbance International Color Code

Alberta One-Call Corporation

http://www.albertalcall.com/resources/colour\_code\_card.shtml

![](_page_8_Picture_3.jpeg)

HCME TLJJ VC

CONTROL US

MEMBERSHIP

concentropy print

REPORTIONAL INFERS

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LIF 12 RESOURCES

LINES

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#### COLOUR CODE CARD

![](_page_8_Figure_6.jpeg)

# Elements of Ground Disturbance Line Locating Diagrams

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Figure_2.jpeg)