



BLUE STAKES OF UTAH

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER, INC.

As of April 2015, the Blue Stakes association consists of 569 member utility owners. When an excavator creates a locate request ticket, how does the Blue Stakes contact center know which member utilities should receive the ticket? This is done using geographic information systems (GIS). Each utility owner maintains a polygon (many-sided shape) "notification area" on the Blue Stakes GIS map to indicate the area for which they want to receive tickets about upcoming excavation activity. When an excavator creates a ticket, the Blue Stakes contact center employee will draw a "dig site" polygon on the GIS map to cover the location where the excavation will take place. If the dig site polygon touches a utility owner's notification area polygon, the Blue Stakes computer system will deliver the ticket to that utility owner.

The dig site polygon does not necessarily indicate the exact area in which utility lines need to be located and marked. The ticket document will provide a text description of the specific marking instructions. In most cases, the dig site polygon will be drawn a bit larger than the actual area to be marked as described on the ticket. The extra size can encompass the legal parcel boundary along with adjacent easements and roads, while allowing for map projection discrepancies. Please note that the dig site polygon is a tool used by the Blue Stakes contact center to determine which utility companies need to receive the ticket. It can be used to provide general location information, but it should not be used to screen tickets as "clear" and should not be interpreted as the area to mark. Instead, use the marking instructions listed on the ticket document.

Please contact James Wingate, VP - Contact Center & GIS Operations, at atjamesw@bluestakes.org or (801) 208-2111 with any questions.

