What is the difference between a **PUBLIC** and a **PRIVATE** Utility Line?

A “public” utility line or cable is provided by a utility company for the services and utility lines they own and maintain, whether they are on public or private property. Utility lines are located to the “dissemination point” or “point of service” by the Utility Company, and each Utility Company may define exactly at what point their service ends and the private service owned and maintained by the property owner begins.

Idaho law requires underground facility owners to mark only the lines they own and maintain. This usually means up to the meter. Underground lines that extend beyond the meter or that are not connected to a meter are typically not installed or owned by the underground facility owner and therefore may not be marked. These may include water & sewer laterals, power to a detached garage, outbuilding, barn, lamp post, sprinkler irrigation systems ( pivots) or lines connected to a propane tank or septic system, etc.

When arriving to inspect the property before excavation, check for private lines. The excavator should check with the property owner as to the location of these lines or consider hiring a private locator to mark these lines that could be in conflict with the excavation project. Call 811 for a list of known private locators.

Areas where private lines are common include apartment complexes, mobile home parks, gated subdivisions, cabin communities, farms, ranches, schools and universities, hospital complexes, industrial areas, government facilities, military installations, wind farms. Check your copy of the Dig Line ticket. Many private facility owners have taken a proactive stand and are members of Dig Line. They will mark or call you to provide the information you need for your locate requests.

If you need additional information, contact Dig Line and we will be happy to assist you.