

Electrical Distribution Safety

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS:

There is significant effort in North America to achieve harmonization between all owners of underground facilities (lines, cable, pipe, etc.) and move to the Uniform Color Code (ULCC), ANSI standard Z535.1 Safety Colors, when marking facilities. Based on the CSA 22.3 No. 7-94 Underground Systems and the ESA Excavating Guideline, LDCs are required to follow this standard.

It has been brought to the attention of ESA that not all LDCs are following this standard. In particular using **Pink** to indicate the locations and route of buried electrical lines, instead of **Red**.

FACILITY COLOUR CODES:

CSA 22.3 No.7-94 Underground Systems, Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) and a vast majority of North America have all adopted the Uniform Color Code. References include:

- CSA 22.3 No. 7-94 - Section 3.4.3 and Appendix B (Temporary identification).
- ORCGA - Best Practices booklet in Section 3 (Locating and Marking Best Practices).

For temporary identification of underground plant the following colours are standard:

COLOUR	TYPE OF FACILITY/INDICATOR	MUNSELL NOTATIONS
Red	Electric - Powerlines, Cables, Conduit & Lighting cables	(Safety Red 7.5R 4.0/14)
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, Compressed air, Gases and other hazardous liquid or gaseous materials	(Safety Yellow 5.0Y 8.0/12)
Blue	Potable water	(Safety Blue 2.5PB 3.5/10)
Orange	Communications - Alarm, Cable TV, Signal lines, Cables & Conduit	(Safety Orange 5.0YR 6.0/15)
Green	Sewers & Drain lines	(Safety Green 7.5G 4.0/9)
Purple	Reclaimed/treated water, Irrigation & Slurry lines	
Pink	Temporary survey markers	
White	Proposed excavation	

PINK – TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS:

Survey crews often use pink spray paint, to create temporary survey markings. These crews could be surveying for any number of projects from a road widening, a sidewalk project, indicate the position of a future trench location, mark an easement, or many other tasks. **Pink** spray paint under the ULCC does not indicate hazardous electrical plant, where **Red** does.

ESA RECOMMENDS:

LDCs review their field practices and adopt the ULCC Uniform Color Code using ANSI standard Z535.1 Safety Colors as shown above.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin “DSB-07/07”.