

# California “Dig Safe Law” Changes Effective July 1, 2020

Changes to California Government Code § [4216](#) *et seq.*,  
and California Code of Regulations Title [19](#)

## Dig Safe Board Enforcement of Board-Jurisdictional Entities (Gov’t Code § 4216.6)

- The Dig Safe Board will be able to initiate enforcement action for violations of Gov’t Code § 4216 *et seq.* on persons not under CSLB, CPUC, Fire Marshall, or local government jurisdiction that occur after July 1, 2020.

## Damage Notification (19 CCR 4100):

- Excavators must contact the regional notification center immediately after calling 911 or other emergency responders, as necessary, or in no event longer than two hours, for any of the following types of damages:
  - Damage to natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline subsurface installation whether or not the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid.
  - Damage to high priority subsurface installation of any kind.
  - Damage causing injury that requires treatment at healthcare clinic (H&S Code § 1200) or a hospital (H&S Code § 1250).
  - Damage causing fatality.
- The one-call center will then transmit the notification to the Dig Safe Board.
- Damage notification will primarily be through an online form developed by DigAlert.

## Area of Continual Excavation (ACE) Tickets (Gov’t Code § 4216.10)

- One-year ACE tickets are available for farmers and operators of flood control facilities
- Flood control facilities are defined as an engineered basin operated by a state or local agency, used for the temporary slowing and storing of storm water runoff and for which regular removal of debris is required (19 CCR 4000)
- On-site meetings are required for ACE within 10 feet of a high priority subsurface installation
- Either the excavator or the operator may request an onsite meeting for any ACE work within 5 feet of a non-high priority subsurface installation

## High Priority Subsurface Installations within 10 feet of an ACE (19 CCR 4350-4361)

- The excavator and operator shall agree to the subsurface installation marking method
- An onsite meeting must be held at a mutually agreed upon date and time that does not unreasonably disrupt the excavator’s or operator’s business operations
- At the onsite meeting, the excavator representative must have knowledge of the operations that will occur during the duration of the ticket.
- At the onsite meeting, the operator representative must be someone with knowledge of the location of the high priority subsurface installation, such as a superintendent, supervisor, or engineer.

- At the onsite meeting, both excavator and operator representatives must have the authority to develop and agree to the ACE plan, and both must fill out and sign an ACE agreement form, which will be available on the Dig Safe Board website.

Due to bottlenecks in the regulation approval process, regulations allowing for power tool use in the tolerance zone will not be in place until October 1, 2020. Until then, the existing prohibition against power tool use in the tolerance zone is in effect.

*[Note1: This document prepared by Dig Safe Board Staff on April 21, 2020*

*Note2: Regulations will not appear on the Title 19 [website](#) until they become active]*