



## **Why Locate Dumping is unnecessary and causes strain on the system**

*Ontario One Call says to use, not abuse the system.*

*Locate dumping hurts everyone.*

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In Ontario, we have two seasons – winter and construction. Spring is often considered the unofficial start to construction season with thousands of contractors and homeowners alike preparing for their dig projects. Call or click before you dig is crucial to ensuring safe excavation, preventing damages to buried infrastructure and of course, it is the law.

Planning workloads can be an extensive process for excavators. They need to ensure all locates are submitted and received as part of that process. Ontario One Call and infrastructure owners alike are flooded with requests in the spring for work that is to take place throughout the course of the dig season. If there are excessive amounts of requests for work that is not starting within 30 days, it will place unnecessary strain on the system. This is something Ontario One Call refers to as ‘locate dumping’. This can often lead to systemic issues related to late locate responses.

Ontario One Call encourages excavators to use tools such as Long Term Suspend, which will allow excavators to use the system to their advantage. Long Term Suspend works by storing tickets submitted in advance until 10 days before the work is scheduled to begin. Once released, the infrastructure owners will be notified and provide the appropriate responses.

Additionally, submitting requests for work that is expected to begin beyond the validity period of your locate response is simply unnecessary. If determining the location of buried lines in advance of the excavation is required for planning purposes, excavators can submit Design and Planning requests through Ontario One Call as well. It is important to remember that locate requests are only to be submitted if the proposed work is intended to begin within 30 days. This guideline is



focused primarily on the validity period of locate responses, which is often 30 days in length. When the excavation community works together to ensure requests are submitted and responded to appropriately, the system will work optimally for all involved.

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Locate requests can be processed anytime at [OntarioOneCall.ca](http://OntarioOneCall.ca), allowing excavators to easily identify their work areas to ensure the infrastructure owners are getting the best and most accurate information possible. Locate requests should be submitted with at least five business days before the work is planned to start. If you have any questions, please contact [solutions@on1call.com](mailto:solutions@on1call.com)