



Signaltape® Product Field Evaluation Guide

Signaltape® Underground Warning Tape helps reduce third-party and no-call excavation damage. This guide outlines a structured approach for project managers to complete a field evaluation of Signaltape® Products. The evaluation will compare a section using tape to a control section using no tape to evaluate effectiveness in reducing no-call strikes over a period of twelve (12) months.

Key benefits of the evaluation:

- *Evaluate product performance in real-world excavation conditions*
- *Confirm installation processes and methods*
- *Measure reductions in no-call excavation strikes*
- *Provide data-driven recommendations for adoption of Signaltape® Products*

Background

No-call excavation damage is a significant risk for underground utilities. These incidents can result in injuries, project delays, repair costs, and service disruptions.

Signaltape® Underground Warning Tape provides a layer of mechanical protection over utilities installed via open-trench methods, aiming to reduce no-call strikes and improve safety.

This guide is designed to help project managers evaluate Signaltape® Products in a systematic, documented manner, generating evidence of performance and informing specification decisions.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process follows three key stages:

- **Phase 1:** Project Design and Installation
- **Phase 2:** Observation
- **Phase 3:** Reporting and Evaluation



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Phase 1: Project Design & Installation

- ☐ Engage all required stakeholders, allocate funding, secure approvals.
- ☐ Establish data collection methods, monitoring intervals, and responsibilities.
- ☐ Define data ownership, confidentiality, and reporting protocols.
- ☐ Select one or more project locations where the risk of excavation damage is elevated.
- ☐ Install Signaltape® Underground Warning Tape in accordance with [manufacturer guidelines](#) on half of the designated project area, leaving the remaining area as the control.

Phase 2: Observation

- ☐ Conduct monthly reporting of all locate tickets, excavation activity, strikes, and near-misses during the one-year observation period.
- ☐ Record all observations consistently, including:
 - Total number of excavation events
 - Documentation of any utility disruptions, including photos when available (warning tape surfaced, tracer wire incidents, utility damage, or near-misses)
 - No-call or third-party strike occurrences
- ☐ Maintain separate and clearly labeled records for each A/B test section.

Phase 3: Reporting & Evaluation

- ☐ Damage Prevention Solutions will support the evaluation by packaging data for analysis. The multi-varied analysis will include A/B comparisons, historical comparisons, and actual versus projected outcomes, as permitted by the available data.
- ☐ The utility owner will complete an internal review to determine whether the field evaluation met its objectives and identify appropriate next steps, such as expanding the use of the product to other regions and initiating the development of an enterprise specification.