

# Understanding the Minn. Rules Chapter 7560 Amendments

## New Responsibilities

**T**hroughout Minnesota, cities are beginning to hear more about new controversial amendments to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7560 that are taking effect at the beginning of 2006. **These amendments will require all Minnesota cities to locate and mark utility services and provide information on all service laterals throughout the Gopher State One Call (GSOC) System.**

Because cities have not always maintained records of this information, the new rule does not require cities to locate all past installations. For installations completed before January 1, 2006, cities will be required to provide all available information they have on file. The city must notify the excavator if there is no information available. For service lateral installations after January 1, 2006, Minnesota cities will be responsible for mapping and locating utilities.

### After January 1, 2006, Cities Must:

1. **Maintain a map, diagram, drawing or geospatial information regarding the location of underground facilities within the public right-of-way.**
2. **Install a locating wire or equally effective means of marking the location of each nonconductive underground facility.**
3. **Locate the portion of the service lateral within the public right-of-way.**

### How Cities Can Comply:

1. **Insist on location requirements in development agreements.**
2. **Require accurate as-built maps from installers.**
3. **Require the installer to provide precise location coordinates.**
4. **Contract with a private engineering firm to inspect, locate, and map every new installation.**
5. **Develop a city inspection program to ensure compliance.**
6. **Demand more stringent trenchless excavation requirements.**

## GIS Opportunity

**S**ome Minnesota cities see this new rule as an opportunity to begin maintaining utility information using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). These cities realize that GIS stores and interprets data, making it useful in many applications. GIS databases integrate information, so it can be used together and is easily accessible. By having your service lateral information in a GIS database, you are better prepared to address your community's changes.

## Funding Issues and Possible Sources

**I**nstallations are typically paid for by the installing contractor or the property owner. However, cities planning on requiring the bare minimum of compliance may still have additional costs to maintain information. Cities may require additional permitting or fees for excavations. These could help pay for a portion of the cost of inspections to ensure rule compliance by contractors and individuals.

To establish a GIS system, some cities have been innovative about how they acquire and use funds. For example, one Minnesota county adds small pockets of funding for its parcel program into several grant requests. Some of the grant monies are used to pay for land identification and planning. Other monies have been used to establish geodetic control for future parcel mapping.

According to Federal Computer Week (FCW), "Homeland security funding could be an answer to develop such systems." FCW quotes a report by the Interior Department saying, "GIS applications and solutions clearly resonate with emergency management and public safety executives as an essential tool to provide the most effective support of their efforts." Securing funds for homeland security might be another possible avenue for funding these types of projects.

### Benefits of GIS:

1. **Increased operational efficiency.**
2. **Reduced redundancy of databases and effort.**
3. **Readily available information for city staff and the community.**
4. **Greater operational and program effectiveness.**
5. **Increased internal cooperation.**
6. **Potential for enhanced external cooperation.**
7. **Uniform land management.**



### Countdown! Rules Effective January 2006

**B**y January 1, 2006, all Minnesota cities need to comply with these new amendments. Having a plan ready can help ease potential financial ramifications and strain on your staff.



For more information, or to learn how LHB can help, please contact:

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# RESOURCES ON-LINE

**MINNESOTA RULES CHAPTER 7560 FULL TEXT**  
[www.dps.state.mn.us/PublicNotice.html](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/PublicNotice.html)

Scroll Down to Click On "Pipeline Safety"  
Then Click On "MR7560 Final Draft"



**MINNESOTA LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER**  
[www.lmic.state.mn.us/coordination\\_services.html](http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/coordination_services.html)

LMIC provides leadership and support in seeking coordinated solutions that meet Minnesota's geospatial technology and data needs by working with Minnesota's state agencies, other units of government, educators, and the private sector and representing Minnesota's interests nationwide.

**GOPHER STATE ONE CALL**  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

Anyone performing excavation work is encouraged to call GSOC. The information provided will be disseminated to underground utility operators, which may have facilities in the described work area.

**LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES**  
[www.lmnc.org](http://www.lmnc.org)

LMC is committed to "serving Minnesota's cities through effective advocacy, expert analysis, trusted guidance, and collective action."



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How is Your City Affected?

