



June 2, 2004

South Dakota One Call Notification Board
1012 N. Sycamore Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to complaint notification, First Dakota Horticulture would like to submit the following response.

First Dakota Horticulture is a Sioux Falls based landscaping and horticultural services company owned and operated by Steve Sheppard and Matthew Schumacher. We have been in business for approximately six years.

Our company did have a landscaping crew operating at 209 W. 9th St. in Crooks, SD on the date noted. We take full responsibility for installing landscape items without a locate. Our company was working with Yellow Jacket Irrigation in this particular case and planned on his locate request being in place two days prior to commencement of work.

We subsequently found out that Yellow Jacket delayed their one call request a few days and adjusted his start time accordingly. Our crew subsequently arrived at the job one day early and began installing rock and edging to a depth of 3 inches. That point in time marks the beginning of our violation.

Ownership realizes that we need to make our own locate requests and not rely on other contractors' locates. We know now that we should have pulled off the job. The foreman felt safe in hand digging no deeper than three inches for landscape edging and 12 inches to install small potted landscape plants and decided to commence with work.

Our company does stress the need to for designers and foreman to provide our office with job start dates one week in advance so locates can be called in. Our diligence in this matter will step up. We have no previous violations and do train our people on the dangers involved with cutting utility services. Please accept our apology and rest assured that compliance will not be an issue with our company in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Sheppard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Steve Sheppard

"Your First-Choice In Professional Horticultural Services"

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