



## MCI Outside Plant FOCUS

### *Fiber Optic Cable Uncovering System*

- 1) The title of this program, F.O.C.U.S., an acronym for Fiber Optic Cable Uncovering System was selected to remind everyone involved with working near MCI's active fiber optic systems to focus on protecting the facilities. If, during the course of the project, YOU notice any activity which may jeopardize the MCI OSP facilities, it is your duty to stop the work and re- FOCUS.
- 2) FOCUS rules must be followed on all MCI projects involving work on or near MCI OSP facilities. Safety is MCI's number one priority; everyone must refrain from unsafe and improper practices.
- 3) Review of FOCUS is mandatory at every Pre-bid, Pre-construction, site meeting and daily tailgate meeting. FOCUS discussion must include site-specific history, unique problems, facility configurations that may be encountered, and past errors. "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it". Do not let this happen to you.
- 4) Any work near or requiring handling of MCI Outside Plant facilities can only be performed with an MCI employee or contract representative present -- **THIS MEANS OUT OF HIS OR HER VEHICLE AND DIRECTLY MONITORING THE WORK.** The representative must have a properly operating cable locator checked for accuracy every day prior to commencement of work (comparison of line and depth readings to actual line and depth of the cable).
- 5) Locate and Pothole Requirements.
  - Prior to any excavation, the MCI employee or contract representative must verify the initial locate marks completed by MCI Operations. **Do not trust locate results completed by others!** The MCI or contract representative must locate the cable running line by making at least one pass in each direction. Locate results must then be compared with previous marks and the asbuilts.
  - If the proposed work involves digging or excavating *within 3 feet* of the cable, the cable route will be marked continually with orange paint and supplemented by marker flags placed every 10 ft. The excavation contractor must pothole (**all potholes must be completed by hand digging or vacuum excavation**) a minimum of every 15 ft., then expose the entire length of the cable by hand digging or vacuum excavation.
  - If the proposed work involves digging or excavating *within 5 feet (but not closer than 3 feet)* of the cable, the cable route will be marked with a continuous dashed orange line and supplemented by marker flags placed every 10 ft. The excavation contractor must pothole the cable a minimum of every 15 ft.
  - If the proposed work involves digging or excavating *within 15 feet (but not closer than 5 feet)* of the cable, the cable route will be marked with a continuous dashed orange line and supplemented by marker flags placed every 10 ft. The excavation contractor must pothole the cable a minimum of every 30 ft.
  - The cable will also be potholed at any change in the running line of more than 1 ft. in any direction, anytime the accuracy of the electronic locate is questioned, or the marked running line does not match the as-builts.
- 6) Exposing Requirements.
  - No mechanical excavation within 3 ft. of OSP facilities will be allowed unless the facilities have first been properly located, potholed, positively identified, continuously exposed by hand digging or vacuum excavation, and the facilities are clearly visible.
  - In addition, mechanical excavation within three feet of OSP facilities requires onsite prior approval from MCI's employee or contract representative.
- 7) Please refer to the latest edition of the MCI OSP Handbook for additional details. Know it and follow it.



## **MCI Outside Plant Construction General Requirements**

- All Federal, State and local safety regulations must be followed without exception.
- Personal protective equipment appropriate for the specific work site shall be used at all times. At a minimum, hard hat, safety shoes/steel toed boots and florescent orange or green work vest are required upon entering any MCI work site.
- Use of intoxicants, drugs, inhalants or any other substances that may impair alertness are strictly prohibited.
- Contractors are NOT allowed to cut any cable. Cables scheduled for removal will be cut by MCI Operations personnel, and only after verification that all traffic has been off-loaded.
- Extreme caution must be used at all times when working on or near active cables. An MCI employee or contract representative must approve and be present prior to and during all cable handling activities.
- Tools and equipment specifically designed for the job at hand are required. **USE THE PROPER TOOL FOR THE JOB.**
- Conduit work involving active cables requires specialized tools specifically designed to access ducts with active cables.
- Protecting MCI facilities is **EXTREMELY** important; however, **SAFETY** regarding yourself and others is the most important part of any project.