

On Line With...

Haviland Telephone Company, Inc.

A PUBLICATION OF HAVILAND TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

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1-800-DIG-SAFE

Summer is usually the time when extra outdoor activity happens, including digging. Kansas Statutes 66-1801 through 66-1814 require that anyone who engages in any type excavation must provide advance notice of at least 2 full working days to the facility owner. To simplify this process, Kansas law created the Kansas One-Call system, administered by the Kansas Corporation Commission. Underground utilities and other operators are required to be paying members of the Kansas One-call

system. KCC penalties and civil damages may apply to excavators who do not follow the regulations.

In most situations when you're digging or doing other earth work, the procedure is simple: 1) call 800-344-7233 (800-DIG-SAFE); 2) wait the prescribed time, during which all operators in the area will locate their property; 3) respect the markings; 4) dig safely. There is no cost to the excavator. All fees are paid by the facility owner. If we mis-locate or fail to locate, the excavator is absolved from damages.

To make things even easier, the new Kansas One-Call short cut has been implemented in our service area. 1-800-DIG-SAFE (800-344-7233), can be reached by just dialing 811! Web access: <http://www.kansasonecall.com/> has a handy excavator's manual and newsletters.

Years ago, telephone companies used copper cable exclusively. It was pretty inexpensive to repair. Today, we still have about 1135 miles of copper cable. The cost to repair a small copper cable

will seldom be more than \$200, including all materials and labor. In addition, most copper outages will not involve

more than a handful of customers.

However, technology changes things. We also have over 500 miles of fiber optic cable. The integrity of these tiny glass strands are crucial to our delivery of voice, internet, and special data circuits. In addition to our retail customers, we have several wholesale customers who transmit cellular calls, cable television channels, data, and alarm information that makes other services to our customers possible. This cable is scattered over 1700 square miles in 8



HAVILAND TELEPHONE COMPANY

104 N. Main, Haviland

620-862-5211 or 800-339-8052

Gene Morris, President

Haviland Office

Mark Wade, General Manager

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Stacey Hosheit, Customer Service

Sandy Erwin, Billing Coordinator

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Dwight Smitherman, C. O. Supervisor

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620-456-2211 or 800-287-7905

Dan King, Outside Plant Supervisor

Brent Swingle, Central Office Technician

Vesta Charbonneau, Customer Service

LaDonna Erker, Customer Service

Don Phillips, Technician

Dan Bender, Technician

BUSINESS HOURS

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday

Office Closed Saturday and Sunday

www.havilandtelco.com

For service after hours call:

Haviland Office, 800-339-8052

Conway Springs, 800-287-7905

Haviland Internet Help Desk Hours:

Monday thru Friday - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sat. 1 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Sun. Office Closed

1.866.704.4268

DSL Customers: you have access to up to 5 e-mail accounts. Why's that a big deal? I can't remember how old I am, much less all my kids' e-mail account names. And, sure, your 11 year old daughter can have cutepuppy405@koolmail.com, but she doesn't have mail pre-filtered to eliminate spam, viruses, annoying cousins, or unknown senders. That's free on our e-mail server. So, stop using your wife's, or your Dad's e-mail account, and get your own. Call us.

DIG SAFE Continued...

counties, in town and in country, along roads and across fields, in public rights-of-way and along acquired private easements. This cable is generally well-marked along its routes with highly visible warning signs.

How does the cost of repairing this cable compare to copper cable? Because light travels down this cable, and light is sensitive to any changes in the quality of the glass, these tiny splices must be perfect. The measuring equipment is expensive. Maintenance personnel is expensive. Kits containing the spliced cables are expensive. As a general rule, a fiber optic cable cannot be spliced for less than \$5000! This simple cut, on the front page, just outside Conway Springs in 2003 cost just under \$11,000 to repair. Some locations would be much more expensive to repair, due to the size of the cable. In addition, fiber outages usually effect large numbers of customers.

We will generally seek compensation from excavators who damage our facilities when we have not been notified via the One-call system, or when the excavator ignores our marking.

Excavation exemptions: Agricultural tilling is exempted. Railroad and road maintenance is exempt when the maintenance does not change the existing grade or ditch flow line. Exploration and production for crude oil and natural gas is also exempt. These operations are exempt from the Kansas One-call excavator requirements, but not from civil damages.

One-call membership exemptions: City water and sewer departments are not required to be members of One-call, although some are. Some oil and gas production facilities are also exempt from membership. These operators may need to be contacted individually.

Remember, location markings are estimates and may vary by 24 inches. The only sure way to know a cable's exact location is for us to expose it.

No More FET!

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced May 25th that the IRS will stop collecting the 3% federal excise tax (FET) on long-distance telephone services in light of the government's many court losses on this issue. The IRS released guidance (Notice 2006-50) that redefines nontaxable telephone service to include all long-distance telephone service, bundled telephone services (including situations where local and long-distance charges are combined for both wireless and landline services), prepaid telephone cards, and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone services. The IRS will continue to collect the tax on local-only telephone service. Customers will see that change within the next couple of months.

Meteorite Festival

Haviland Meteorite Festival is July 7-8 in Haviland. See 1400 lb specimen from Brenham Meteorite Field. Tour the Meteorite Field. Concert, science presentations, including American Museum of Natural History. Helicopter rides. Children's events, parade, food, fireworks. See web site: www.havilandkansas.com. Events at Barclay College or downtown Haviland. Call 620-862-5206 or 862-5317 to pre-book helicopter ride or for more information.

Congratulations State Track & Field Participants

Congratulations to all high-school track and field participants at Cessna Stadium May 26-27! Norwich boys and girls teams did especially well, with each team placing 5th in 1A. The Poljansek sisters were both on the award stand in discus. The preliminary boys' 400 with Dolley (Norwich) and Allen (Argonia) was very exciting. Schuler (Haviland) won the boys 1600, and Binford (Haviland) won the girls 3200.

DSL Speed?

Popular sites like Youtube need faster Internet speeds. Nearly 2 million people viewed 9-11 plane crash into Pentagon in the 1st 24 hours after the clip was posted. Apple says it has sold 30 million videos on iTunes to date. News clips from Fox News or CNN don't even ask if your connection is high speed: They assume it is. Commercial downloadable video sites like CinemaNow and Movielink require high speed connections, and may take longer to download than to watch. College TV "stations" are using the Internet for primary distribution. ElectedTV, mtvU both distribute amateur video. ElectedTV has an option to download both MPEG-4 and a higher resolution for full-screen replay. Each single video will run about 300 megabytes. "How fast do you need?" is like asking, "How much money do you need?"

Haviland Telephone Company has been serving the people of South Central Kansas with a high level of service for over fifty years. Conway Springs, Argonia, Norwich, Riverdale, Coats, Cullison, Haviland, Wilmore, Mullinville, Nashville, Isabel and Sawyer residents have learned to depend on Haviland Telephone Company. With local service, Caller ID, Long Distance, Internet, and now DSL, our customers have learned to depend on us. Haviland Telephone Company.... a neighborhood company, helping the communities we serve prosper.