

Buried Valve Identification

1. General Information

The "Valve Maintenance Record" (see [Attachment 1](#)) and proper implementation of this work procedure both require detailed valve data. There are numerous ways to identify buried valves, some of which are listed as follows:

- A. Research valve maintenance records.
- B. Research valve installation records.
- C. Research equipment cards.
- D. Examine the exposed parts of the valve in the valve frame and cover.
- E. Excavate the valve.

Although excavating a valve is the only positive way to get all the information needed, Methods A through D above may provide the information needed to properly lubricate a valve and safely operate it. Do not use Method E (excavate the valve) unless there are unusual circumstances, such as excavation to repair a leak or to repair the coating on or next to the valve.

2. Proper Valve Identification

A review of the exposed parts and how the valve operates can provide the following vital information:

- Ball and plug valves are quarter-turn. (However, if a buried gearbox on a ball and plug valve exists, the gearbox pinion shaft is extended and multi-turned.) Gate valves are multi-turned.
- Before 1955, virtually all valves installed in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (the Company's) transmission and distribution systems were plug valves, with the bulk of those manufactured by Rockwell. The year of installation may be available from existing records.
- Old gas standards can shed light on which types and brands of valves were purchased in certain years. This information may be available from the Technical Document Management (TDM) group.
- Plug valves have the grease fitting in the middle of the stem. Ball valves are supposed to have the backup grease feature fittings extended and external to the valve stem. Gate valves have no grease fittings, since they are not designed to be lubricated.

Using the above data, a conservative maximum torque value can be established for each buried valve.