

Water and Sewer Pipe-Layer Training Best Practices

In order to perform water and sewer pipe-laying work, Minnesota law requires individuals to obtain a plumbing bond or be an employee of a person in compliance with the bond and insurance requirements of Minn. Stat. §326B.46, subd. 2. Individuals performing building sewer or water service installation are not required to hold a plumbers license if they have completed pipe-laying training.

The commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry recommends the following best practices for water and sewer pipe-laying training.

1. Entities performing water and sewer pipe-laying training are responsible for providing qualified instructors. Qualifications generally include a mix of directly related formal training and field experience.
2. The instructors maintain records of those who have taken the training and issue pipe-layer cards dated with the expiration date to those who pass the course. Cards are carried in the field when performing pipe-laying work and expire every three years.
3. Instruction in water and sewer pipe-laying includes:
 - all applicable parts of the Minnesota Plumbing Code
 - trench safety
 - utility locating
 - pipe materials
 - pipe cutting and joining techniques
 - sanitary and storm sewers
 - trench dewatering
 - setting elevations
 - hydrants
 - manholes and catch basins
 - confined space entry
 - blueprint reading
 - testing
 - erosion/sediment control
4. Refresher pipe-laying training consisting of at least four hours of training is provided at least once every three years in order to maintain a pipe-layer card.
5. Successful completion of the course includes passing the course test.