609.2.1

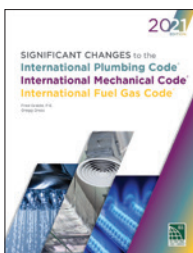## Tracer Wire for Buried Nonmetallic Water Service Piping

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: The addition of a tracer wire on buried hospital water service piping allows for easier locating to avoid piping damage that would disrupt water service.

2021 CODE: **609.2.1 Tracer wire for nonmetallic piping.**   An insulated tracer wire listed for the purpose or other approved conductor shall be installed adjacent to underground nonmetallic piping serving as a water service for a hospital. Access shall be provided to the tracer wire or the tracer wire shall terminate above ground at each end of the nonmetallic piping. The tracer wire size shall be not less than 18 AWG and the wire insulation type shall be suitable for direct burial.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: A tracer wire is now required for underground nonmetallic water service piping serving Group I-2, Condition 2 facilities (hospitals). Although the installation of tracer products for buried nonmetallic piping and conduit is common in the utility industry, this section is specific as to the minimum size of the wire, access to the wire at each end of the piping and the insulation on the wire needing to be listed for direct burial service. Typical building wiring is not likely to be listed (by a third-party certification agency) for tracer wire service. Note that as AWG wire size number designations become larger, the wire diameters become smaller. Sizes less than 18 AWG are products having smaller wire diameters.

This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing/ Mechanical/ Fuel Gas Codes, 2021 Edition.*

The Significant Changes series takes you directly to the most important changes that impact projects.

Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application.

Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC, IECC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.

Tracer required for underground nonmetallic water service pipe

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/Supersmario