

## Line Cutting

### What is the Activity?

Line cutting is often the first exploration work done on the claim. It involves cutting a main base line through the middle of the mining claim with a series of grid or wing lines running off of the base line at 90-degree angles. Vegetation may be cleared during line cutting.

At regular intervals along the grid or wing lines wood pickets with written coordinates will be driven into the ground.

Geologists use the picket coordinates to accurately locate features on the maps they draw. They use GPS to document some information but often still prefer control grids.

People and equipment can move more easily around an area using the grid.

The grid also provides access for geophysical surveys.

### Footprint on the Land

When there is ground cover present, an individual walks through the bush in a straight line cutting trees and vegetation with an axe, machete or a chainsaw. Underbrush is cleared from the line and pickets are placed.

The length of the lines depends on the size of the mining claim. The width of the line is regulated by the requirements for an exploration plan or permit.



### Mining Act Requirements

Line cutting with a width of 1.5 metres or less needs an exploration plan

Line cutting done with a width greater than 1.5 metres needs an exploration permit

## Provincial Standards for Early Exploration

All early exploration activities that require an exploration plan or permit must follow the Provincial Standards for Early Exploration.

There are three parts to these Provincial Standards:

1. Rules for carrying out exploration plan activities;
2. Rules for carrying out exploration permit activities;
3. Rules for rehabilitation of exploration plan and exploration permit activities.

During line cutting programs, the Provincial Standards must be followed for an exploration plan:

Use hand tools for all line cutting.

**For the official and most up to date information on the rules for carrying out these exploration and rehabilitation activities, please refer to:**

- [The Mining Act](#)
- [Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits Regulation](#)
- [Provincial Standards for Early Exploration](#)

## Ministry of Northern Development & Mines

### Office Contact Numbers

Sudbury: (705) 670-5815

Timmins: (705) 235-1625

Thunder Bay: (807) 475 -1123