



# Safe Digging Education



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

**Click**  
Before  
**YouDig.com**

[PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com](http://PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com)

Let's  
**Grow**  
Safety Together



# Who is PASA?

The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA) consists of a dedicated group of utility operators who have teamed up with the National Association of County Agricultural Agents to help deliver safe digging education to farmers and ranchers around the U.S.

## Safe digging myths

**Myth: Calling 811 will cost time and money.**

Calling 811 is FREE. The cost is paid by utility companies to protect you. After the call, professional utility locators will be sent to the dig site within 2-3 business days (state laws vary). Calling in advance while you are planning your project can help save time.

**Myth: I remember when utilities were installed, and I've called 811 before. I don't need to call again.**

The depth of utilities can change over time due to erosion and terrain modifications. New utilities may have also been installed since the last time a utility locate was completed.

**Myth: If I hit a pipeline and nothing happens, there's nothing to worry about.**

Even if it appears the utility isn't damaged, always call and notify the utility company. Even a small dent, scrape, gouge, or scratch could cause a major problem in the future.

## Tips for working on large projects

**Larger** projects that require design and planning should be discussed with affected utility operators before digging occurs. This can help mitigate potential utility impacts. Submit the project plan to affected utility operators by calling 811 or visiting your state's One Call center website to complete a digital locate ticket. This initiates the process to inform you of public utilities in the dig area.

**When** engaging in terrain modifications, adding or removing soil near underground utilities can change utility depth of cover. Work with affected utility operators to make sure depth of cover remains the same. When modifying terrain, the end of proposed excavation should maintain a minimum clearance of at least 25' when parallel to a utility.



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## Activities that require a call to 811

- Fence installation or post replacement
- Drain tiling
- Terracing
- Grading
- Contouring
- Ripping
- Deep tilling
- Livestock burial
- Road maintenance
- Tree and stump removal
- Clearing
- Grubbing
- Trenching
- Auguring
- Installing cattle guards
- Installing dam and dugouts
- Deep soil sampling

This list is not comprehensive. When in doubt, call 811 or visit your state's One Call center website to submit a digital locate ticket.

## Private vs public utilities

**Public utilities** are marked when you call 811 or visit your state's One Call center website and submit a digital locate ticket. These utilities are marked for free.

**Private utilities** are not marked when you call 811 or submit a digital ticket. Private utilities are not owned or maintained by local utilities. They are the responsibility of the landowner. Private utilities begin after the demarcation point (usually the meter) or at the utility's main feed. Examples include electric lines running between outbuildings, propane lines off the tank, sewer laterals or waste collection lines, sprinkler or irrigation lines.

To get private utilities located, contact your state One Call center or [nulca.org](http://nulca.org) for information on fee-based private locating companies.



## Recognizing a leak

### Sight

- Liquid pools
- Vaporous fogs
- Discolored or abnormally dry soil
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- Oily sheen on water surfaces
- Blowing dirt around a pipeline area
- Fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above ground
- Dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation
- Frozen ground in warm weather

### Smell

- Gas or diesel fuel
- Rotten egg
- Sharp acidic scent
- Strong sulfur scent
- Unusually strong skunk-like odor
- Hydrocarbon smell

### Sound

- Quiet hissing or loud roar



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## Pipeline emergency response

- Leave the area immediately on foot, moving upwind and uphill
- Eliminate any source of ignition, turn off equipment, put out cigarettes
- Warn others to evacuate
- Call 911 and the emergency number for the pipeline operator from a safe distance
- **DO NOT** walk or drive through any liquid or vapor cloud
- **DO NOT** attempt to alter the flow of product by turning pipeline valves
- **DO NOT** attempt to extinguish any fire
- **DO NOT** attempt to make repairs

## Safety around overhead wires

### Plan Ahead

- Identify electrical equipment (i.e., overhead lines or metal cabinets)
- Survey the site each day
- Share information on potential hazards with all workers
- Emergency plan is reviewed and ready
- Always assume electric lines and equipment are energized

### Conducting Work

- Keep workers, tools, and equipment at least 10' away from overhead power lines
- Cranes and derricks may require a greater clearance and should adhere to encroachment requirements
- Always use a spotter
- Carry tools horizontal
- Use non-conductive wood or fiberglass ladders near overhead lines

### Emergency Response

- If a worker or equipment comes in contact with electric lines, don't try to rescue
- Stay clear and don't drive over downed or fallen lines
- If equipment comes in contact with a power line
  - Remain in the vehicle
  - Warn others to keep away
  - Call 911 and wait for emergency personnel or utility workers to say it's safe to exit
- If you must exit for safety reasons such as fire
  - Jump out and jump clear of the vehicle
  - Don't touch equipment and the ground at the same time
  - Land with both feet together
  - Keep both feet on the ground
  - Shuffle away in small steps to avoid shock or electrocution



## How can you help?

- Share safe digging messages by registering at [PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com](http://PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com), downloading the material you want, and telling us what you shared.
- Request safety guides or a speaker for your next event.



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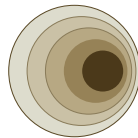


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# Thank you members!



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