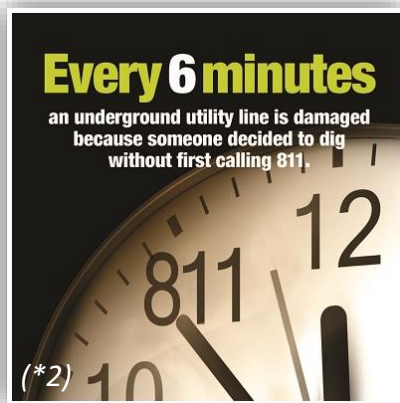


Striking buried underground utilities can cause property damage, injury, electrocutions, and explosions. In addition to OSHA rules, workers should be aware of any specific state, municipal, or local rules for “Call before you dig” where work is being done.

Know what's below. Call **811** before you dig. (*1)



OSHA Standard 1926.651(b)(1) states that *the estimated location of utility installations, such as sewer, telephone, fuel, electric, water lines, or any other underground installations that reasonably may be expected to be encountered during excavation work, shall be determined prior to opening an excavation.*



Crew looks for a buried gas line after potholing. (*8)



Example of located intersection and curb area. Note electricity is marked in red paint, telephone in orange flags, and gas is marked in yellow paint.



Example flags used to mark buried utilities. (*9)

OSHA Standard 1926.651(b)(2) says that *utility companies or owners shall be contacted within established or customary local response times, advised of the proposed work, and asked to establish the location of the utility underground installations prior to the start of actual excavation.*

TO IMPROVE EXCAVATION SAFETY AROUND UTILITIES:

- Call 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to working on excavations or trenches.
- “White line” the area by painting arrows, dashes, dots, or lines in the area the crew will be digging before the locate service arrives.
- Always wait the specific time required by the locate service.
- Respect the markings and flags placed by the locating service. Most states have specific ‘tolerance zones’ where excavation with machinery is strictly prohibited.
- Probe, hand dig, and/or pot hole using shovels when approaching the painted/flagged areas.
- Know the type of colors for each of the marked utilities.

COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
PROPOSED EXCAVATION
TEMP SURVEY MARKINGS
ELECTRIC – POWER
GAS – OIL – STEAM
TELCO – COMMUNICATIONS
POTABLE WATER
RECLAIMED WATER
SEWER – DRAIN LINES

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