



PROTECTING UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Permit applicants and public works departments planning to dig, grate, clear ditches or operate heavy equipment on or near the location of underground pipelines or utility lines are encouraged to use this safety checklist:

- Plan your activity.** Identify the location of your work, making sure to look for pipeline markers and other indications that an underground pipeline or utility line is in the area. Utilize Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) services, submit a design or planning ticket through 811, or refer to publicly available maps such as the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) to obtain information about underground pipelines and utilities near your worksite.
- Contact the pipeline or utility operator.** Operators each manage their own internal processes and guidelines for approving projects within or crossing their right-of-way.
- Make a locate request.** In alignment with state laws, contact 811 at least two or three working days before your project starts to request that pipeline and utility operators locate and mark the location of underground lines.
- Be on site** when underground facilities are being located to ask any questions you have regarding temporary markings/flags or how to safely dig within the tolerance zone.
- Review employee and contractor safety procedures.** Confirm that anyone hired to do work on your behalf, including contractors, is aware of risks associated with digging near underground lines and appropriate safe digging procedures.
- Follow all instructions and guidance** provided by pipeline and utility operators including hand digging or vacuum excavating the pipe before mechanical excavations particularly in or near the tolerance zone. Notify the pipeline or utility operator prior to backfilling. Pipeline representatives may need to be onsite during backfill.
- Immediately notify the pipeline or utility operator** if you damage, scrape, crack or dent a pipe or its coating. From a safe place, immediately call 911 and the operator if the pipeline is damaged and could be leaking. Notify 811 about the damage according to your state law.



Download excavation safety resources at
pipelineawareness.org



Pipeline Association
for Public Awareness