



## Tips of the trade

Pipeline safety

Welcome to National Grid's Tips of the Trade. National Grid is committed to your safety, and these tips are intended to help you work safely near our facilities. Please review these tips with your coworkers at your tailgate or toolbox meetings before work begins.

Please help us improve our safety tips to meet your training needs. Take our two-minute survey.

Take survey

### Protecting utilities during heavy construction

#### Protect utility lines from excavation and compaction

Notifying 811 is a crucial step for any type of construction-related excavation, and even more critical for heavy construction jobs. The 811 service will arrange for utility locators to mark underground electric power lines, gas pipelines and other facilities so you can dig a safe distance away from them.



Contractors are responsible for protecting underground utility lines not only during excavation, but during other construction activities as well. When working with heavy equipment, use the information provided by utility locators to take these important steps:

- **Develop informed excavation plans** that avoid underground utility lines and reduce the likelihood of damaging them.
- **Identify where heavy equipment and construction loads will repeatedly cross underground utility lines during construction.** Use construction mats to disperse the weight and reduce the likelihood of compaction-related damage.
- **Park heavy equipment away from underground utility lines.** Locate debris piles and stacks of heavy materials away from underground lines as well.

#### Be aware of public AND private utility lines

Notifying 811 to have buried utility lines located and marked must be done before any excavation begins on any public or private property, but it's only half the equation. You see, the 811 service only covers utilities that run from the street to the service meter; it does not cover *private* utilities that run underground beyond the meter. Private utilities may include gas lines for swimming pools or grills; electric and gas lines to sheds and outbuildings; parking lot lighting; and building-to-building utilities.

When working on private property, you must notify 811 AND check with the property owner about the location of any private utility lines. Be aware that the current owner may not know of lines installed by previous owners, so consider hiring a private utility locator service. You can find private locators online and, in some areas, through the local 811 center.

#### When PV is on the ground, be alert for cables underground

Buried cables that carry electricity from ground-level solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays to homes and businesses are another example of private utility lines. If you must dig or move earth near any ground-level solar installation, no matter the size, notify 811 before digging and consult the property owners as well.

For more contractor safety information, visit [ngridssafety.com](http://ngridssafety.com).



Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

Smell Gas. Act Fast.

To report emergencies, call 911 and National Grid immediately.

#### In case of gas emergencies:

Long Island and the Rockaways:  
911 and 1-800-490-0045

Metro New York:  
911 and 1-718-643-4050

Upstate New York:  
911 and 1-800-892-2345

Massachusetts:  
911 and 1-800-233-5325

Rhode Island:  
911 and 1-800-640-1595

#### In case of electric emergencies:

Upstate New York:  
911 and 1-800-867-5222

Massachusetts:  
911 and 1-800-465-1212

Rhode Island:  
911 and 1-800-465-1212

