



Protecting utilities during heavy construction

Contractors are responsible for protecting underground utility lines not only during excavation, but during other construction activities as well. When working with heavy equipment, always notify the 811 service before you dig and use the information provided by utility locators to take these important steps:



- **Develop informed excavation plans** that avoid buried utility lines and reduce the likelihood of damaging them.
- **Identify where heavy equipment and construction loads will repeatedly cross buried lines during construction.** Use construction mats to disperse the weight and reduce the likelihood of compaction-related damage.
- **Park heavy equipment away from buried lines.** Locate debris piles and stacks of heavy materials away from these 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 that's only half the equation. 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, such as electric and gas lines to sheds, swimming pools, grills, 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.

Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.

PV arrays 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, notify 811 before digging and consult the property owners as well.

Smell Gas. Act Fast. Be the one to call 911.

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately.
Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!