



## 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 natural gas pipelines. Please review these tips with your coworkers at your tailgate or toolbox meetings before work begins.

## Always pre-mark your dig area

Do you have a project that involves digging? If so, be sure to pre-mark your dig area to indicate exactly where your excavation will take place.



## What is pre-marking? Why is it important?

Pre-marking, also known as white-lining or white-marking, involves outlining the boundaries of your proposed dig area or route. Pre-marks prevent confusion, delays and errors by showing utility-locate personnel exactly where your excavation will take place. Pre-marks are required by law in Massachusetts. They are required in New York if you cannot adequately identify your dig site on your 811 locate request.

## Pre-marking tips

- Outline the boundaries of your proposed dig area or route with white paint, flags and/or stakes before you contact the 811 service.
- When spray painting, use a continuous line, dots or dashes 6 to 12 inches long.
- For trenching, boring or other continuous-type excavations, mark the proposed centerline, and use arrows to show the direction of your excavation.
- Include your company name at reasonable intervals.
- When you contact the 811 center with your locate request, let them know you have pre-marked, and explain where on the property the locator can find your marks.

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

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

Take survey

For more contractor safety information, visit [ngrid.com/safety](https://ngrid.com/safety).

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

Smell Gas. Act Fast.



Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

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

In case of electric emergencies:

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

Massachusetts:  
911 and 1-800-465-1212