

## Weekly Safety Tip

# CALL 811 – KNOW WHAT’S BELOW



Don't gamble with your safety – if you're a professional excavator or a homeowner, smart digging always requires you to call 811 before you dig.

Building a deck? Installing a fence? New mail box? Even a simple job like planting a tree in your yard can jeopardize your safety. Many energized power and utility lines are buried just a few feet under the ground. Digging, trenching, or excavating without knowing where the utility lines are buried can be costly – and fatal.

**One call does it all:** Call 811 from anywhere in the country and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing, and your affected local utility company will be notified.

**Allow at least 48 hours:** Call 811 at least 48 hours before planning to dig; that will allow the utility company time to come out and mark their lines with color coded paint or flags.

**Respect the marks:** Buried lines are marked with paint or flags that show the approximate location of the utilities. Don't guess or make risky assumptions, if there is any confusion – call your utility company directly to clarify.

**Excavate carefully:** The tolerance zone is measured 18 inches to either side of the underground utility. You must excavate with caution if digging inside the zone.

**Liability:** If you fail to call 811 and damage a utility service, you could be held liable for repair, replacement costs, and / or other property damages, in addition to serious injuries or death.

For more information visit: [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).