PROTECT YOUR LAND

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Always call or click **811** and work with pipeline and utility operators to locate underground lines.

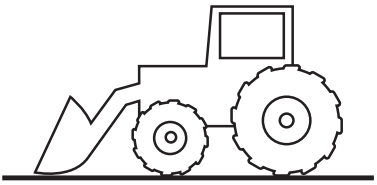
Hitting a pipeline or underground utility can impact your family for generations. Underground lines can be located less than 12 inches below the surface due to topsoil removal, erosion and weather. Never assume the location or depth of underground lines.

Always call or click 811 or contact the pipeline or utility line operator to discuss your project and to check the location and depth of underground lines before you deep plow, till, rip, install a fence or drain tiles. Operators will locate the pipeline, perform a depth and safety analysis and work with you to help protect you, your land and the pipeline or underground utility line. Operators will typically request to be on-site during projects directly near the underground line to provide safety guidance regarding clearances and backfilling procedures.

The safety information on the following pages provide general guidance regarding how to safely work near underground pipelines and utility lines. This safety guide is designed to increase awareness regarding the safety risks associated with excavation-type activities near underground pipelines and utility lines, and to facilitate project planning and coordination with pipeline and utility line operators.

FARM & RANCH SAFETY INFORMATION

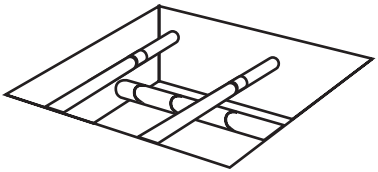
Land Contour Modifications



Land contour projects near underground pipelines and utility lines, including the installation of ponds, lakes and drainage ditches, require expert engineering in planning and implementation to protect land, water and underground pipeline and utility line infrastructure. A plan should be developed and provided to the pipeline or utility line operator in advance to initiate discussion regarding potential impact to the integrity and safety of underground lines. Call or click 811 to initiate contact with all impacted pipeline and utility line operators and to discuss the land contour modifications you are planning.

When considering land contour modifications, no substantial amount of soil can be removed or added directly near underground pipelines or utility lines. Project requirements should be designed to maintain the current pipeline or utility line depth of cover or as advised by the operator. The edge of a proposed land contour modification should maintain a minimum clearance of at least 25 feet when parallel to a pipeline or utility line.

Drain Tile Installation



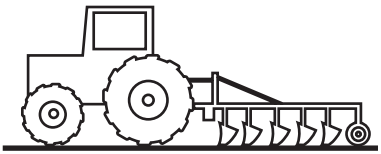
Cross at an angle as close to 90 degrees as possible and with at least 24 inches of separation.

When planning your field drain tile installation project, call or click 811 to check the location of pipelines and utility lines and to discuss your installation plans with pipeline and utility line operators. Advanced planning is key to allow sufficient time for operators to review the project design, verify pipeline depths and operational requirements.

Generally, field drain tiles crossing a pipeline or utility line should be as near to 90 degrees (perpendicular to the line) as possible and clear the line by at least 24 inches. Solid tiles and plastic pipe are typically recommended when crossing a pipeline or utility line. Pea gravel is used to prevent settling.

Subsoiling, Deep Ripping or Deep Plowing

Due to erosion and topsoil removal, the existing depth of underground pipelines and utility lines may not support deep tillage activities, such as subsoiling, deep ripping or plowing.



Never assume the location or depth of pipelines or underground utility lines. Call or click 811 to initiate contact with pipeline and utility operators. Operators will locate the pipeline, perform a depth and safety analysis and work with you to ensure that you, your land and the pipeline or utility line stay safe.

Safety Guidelines

Step 1: Call or click 811 before agricultural excavation activities.

Never rely on pipeline markers to identify the location of pipelines or utility lines. Markers indicate the general, but not exact, location of pipelines or utility lines.

Always call or click 811 at least two to three working days before you deep plow, tile, scrape or dig. 811 is a **free service** in most states that will notify pipeline and underground utility operators of your planned work. For larger projects, contact the operator during the planning phase to allow time to ensure safety for you and the pipeline or utility line.

Step 2: Wait for Operators to Mark Lines

Identify the location where you will be digging using white paint or coordinate a time to meet with the operator to discuss your project. Wait for operators to locate their lines before beginning your project. Operators may request to be on-site when you dig.

Step 3: Dig with Hand-Digging Tools Near the Line and Backfill Properly

Dig with care using appropriate hand digging or vacuum-digging tools near pipelines and underground utilities. For your safety, backhoes, augers and other mechanical equipment should not be used when digging within 24 inches of the outside edge of pipelines or utility lines. Don't remove flags, stakes or paint marks until you've finished digging. Carefully backfill and compact the soil.

Step 4: Notify Operator Regarding Damage or Leaks

Never operate mechanical equipment in an area where you suspect a leak. Immediately notify operator if you dent, scrape or hit a pipeline while digging so that it can be inspected and repaired, if needed, to prevent future damage. If you suspect a pipeline leak, immediately leave the area in an upwind direction and warn others to stay away. From a safe location, call 911 and the operator.