



April is National Safe Digging Month August 11 (8/11) is Dig Safe Day

It's Smart

It's Free

It's the Law

What is 811?

811 is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect homeowners and professional excavators from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

Why Call 811?

Every digging project requires a call to 811. Hitting an underground utility line while digging can harm the environment, cause serious personal injuries, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially incur fines and repair costs.

When Should I call 811?*

- Installing a rural mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck
- Excavating a new garden area

* These are a few common examples of when to call. You or your contractor should call at least 72 hours before any digging project.

Color Code For Marking Underground Utilities

| | |
|---------------|--|
| RED | <i>Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables</i> |
| YELLOW | <i>Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials</i> |
| ORANGE | <i>Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit</i> |
| BLUE | <i>Potable Water</i> |
| GREEN | <i>Sewers and Drain Lines</i> |
| PURPLE | <i>Non-Potable Water: Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines</i> |
| PINK | <i>Temporary Survey Markings</i> |

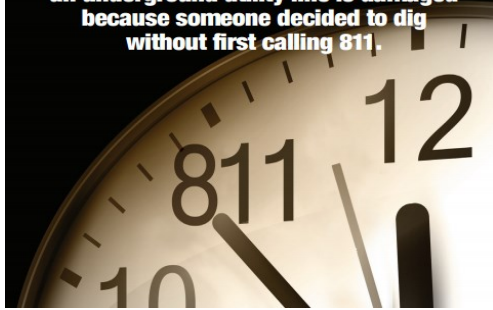
How Does it Work?

- One easy phone call to 811, at least 72 hours prior to digging, starts the process of getting your underground utility lines marked for free.
- When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, a representative from your local one-call center will answer your call. They will ask you for the location and description of your digging job, and will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines within a few days of your call.
- Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.
- Please visit www.digsafe.com, for more information about the one call center serving New Hampshire.

What Happens if I Don't Call?

Every 6 minutes

an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.



Reduce
the chance of causing a damage to less than



1%

when you call 811 before digging.

Knowing approximately where underground utility lines are buried before each digging project helps to prevent dangerous situations.

Source: Infographics Courtesy
Common Ground Alliance

There's more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the U.S.

There are more than 100 billion feet of underground utilities in the United States, according to data compiled by CGA from various industry groups.



**Don't be a statistic.
Call 811 before digging.**

45 percent of American homeowners who plan to dig this year said in a recent survey that they would NOT call 811 beforehand, putting themselves and their communities at risk.



Important Links:

[Dig Safe Home Owner Brochure](#)

[Dig Safe Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Dig Safe Excavator Manual](#)

[Common Ground Alliance 811 Toolkit](#)

Who is Behind 811?

Dig Safe Office

[Dig Safe](#) is a nonprofit dispatch clearing house that notifies member utility companies of residents' and contractors' plans to dig. These utility companies respond by marking out their location of their underground lines and other equipment in the area subject to digging. Dig safe is a free service, funded entirely by its member utility companies.

Common Ground Alliance (CGA)

[The Common Ground Alliance](#) is the leading association created specifically to work with all industry stakeholders in an effort to prevent damage to underground utility infrastructure and ensure public safety and environmental protection. Officially formed in 2000, CGA represents a continuation of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Common Ground Study. The CGA works with its 1,500 members and sponsors to promote the national 811, "Call Before You Dig" campaign. For more information, visit www.commongroundalliance.com.

NRPC's Involvement with Safe Digging

[The Nashua Regional Planning Commission](#) has been granted funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program to promote pipeline safety planning and general Dig Safe awareness in our region.

Important Links:

DigSafe

CGA

NRPC

Facebook Links

[Dig Safe-Serving MA, ME, NH, RI & VT](#)

[CGA Connect](#)

[NRPC](#)

Twitter Links

[@DigSafe1](#)

[@CGAConnect](#)

[@NashuaRPC](#)