

Check for Response & Respect the Marks

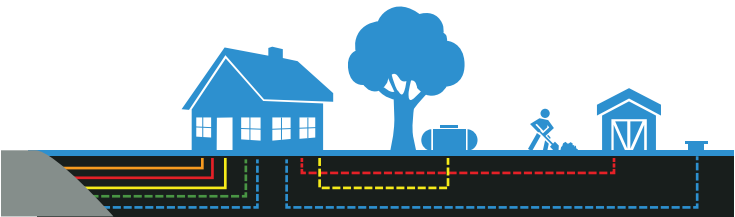
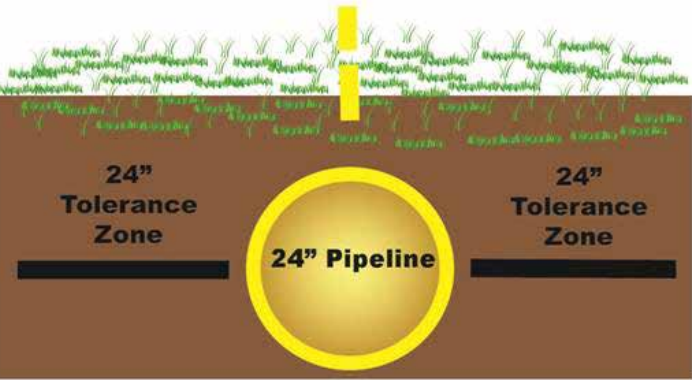
Make sure the underground facilities have been marked, or that you have received a response from the facility operator that they have lines conflicting with the area you're digging in. You can also go online to OKIE811.org and Lookup your Ticket Number to see what each facility operator has submitted regarding their response. For lines that are marked, they will be identified by color code paint and flags. It's important the paint and flags are not removed until the dig project is complete.

How do I know when it's safe to dig?

The color code chart serves as a guide to identify the marked underground facility. Be especially careful when digging within the tolerance zone, which is the width of the facility plus 24" on both sides. When using a shovel, keep the face of the blade toward the side of the facility.

What happens if I don't contact 811 before I dig?

If you don't find out where it's safe to dig, it's quite possible you will find a buried utility and potentially create a life threatening situation. Damaging a telephone or fiber optic line may not only cause you inconvenience by losing telephone, cable, or internet service, but it could deprive your neighbors of emergency assistance. This could also make it impossible for police officers to get information they need to keep themselves and your community safe. Damaging gas lines could result in you and your home suffering serious injury if escaping gas ignites, and it could result in a community evacuation. Damaging an electric line could cause a shock, major burns or electrocution.



Public utilities that are marked by contacting 811 are indicated with solid lines in the above image. Dashed lines indicate privately managed utilities.

What is a private line?

Primary power, gas, and telecommunication lines will be marked by the facility operators that own and operate them. Secondary water, sewer, gas, and electric lines are considered private lines and will not be marked when contacting 811. Water, sewer, and storm drain lines are only marked if they are within the right of way. Lines running from the right of way or meter to the residence or business are considered private lines and you will need to contact a private line locator to have these lines located. Also note, you must contact any non-member facility owner not listed on your locate request directly to request their facilities to be located and marked.



811 Certification

This 811 Certification is a free 1½ hour online program designed for professional excavators. The objective of this program is to improve excavator safety through comprehensive training to prevent accidental damage to underground facilities during excavation. To register go to OKIE811811.org/excavationcertification.



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GUIDE TO
SAFE DIGGING

Be Prepared Before Contacting 811

- ☐ Homeowner/Excavator name and Excavator company
- ☐ Mailing Address
- ☐ Contact name, telephone, email address and cell phone number
- ☐ Start date and time of excavation
- ☐ Work site street and number (include north, south, east, west)
- ☐ County and town/city
- ☐ Nearest Cross Street
- ☐ Driving Directions to the worksite
- ☐ Type and extent of the proposed work
- ☐ Type of excavation, explosives or directional boring.
- ☐ Work location (street, sidewalk, private property front, rear, side, etc.)
- ☐ Who the work is being done for
- ☐ Information regarding any access issues such as locked gates, dogs, etc.

The APWA Color Codes

Utilities mark their facilities with specific colors to indicate the type that is underground. These codes show you what those colors represent.

 PROPOSED EXCAVATION	 COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
 TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS	 POTABLE WATER
 ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES	 RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION, AND SLURRY LINES
 GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS	 SEWERS AND DRAINLINES

White Lining

Pre-marking a job site in white paint or flags is an excellent way to communicate the precise location that excavation is to take place.

[Learn more at OKIE811.org](https://www.okie811.org)

5 STEPS TO SAFE DIGGING



Step 1: Contact OKIE811

You can call OKIE811 by dialing 811 or go online to submit a ticket at [OKIE811.org](https://www.okie811.org) and selecting an option under "I Want to Dig".

Step 2: Wait the Required Time

Oklahoma Law requires at least 3 business days' notice of planned excavation. The facility operators are required by law to provide positive response that will be viewable on the ticket. They will mark the underground facilities or communicate with the person doing the digging that they have no facilities within the proposed excavation site.

Step 3: Check for Positive Response

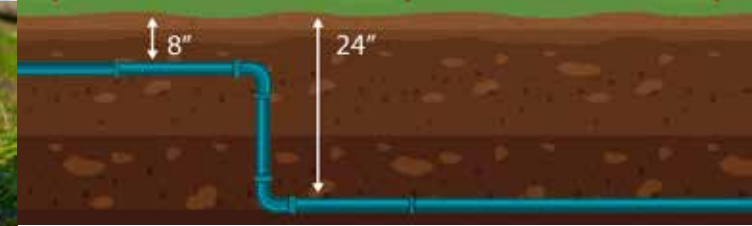
Positive Response is a means for the facility operators to provide information regarding the status of your location request. Have the facilities been marked? Does the locator need to meet with the person doing the digging or are there no facilities in the area of excavation?

Step 4: Respect the Marks

The underground facilities located on your property will be identified by color coded paint or flags. Once the underground facilities have been located it is very important that the flags or paint not be disturbed.

Step 5: Dig with Care

The width of the location tolerance zone includes 24 inches on each side of the utility plus the width of the utility itself. If you must dig within the tolerance zone, hand digging with caution is necessary to help reduce the possibility of damage to the located utility.



After you have contacted OKIE811, waited the required time, and confirmed that all buried utility lines on your job site have been located and marked, your power-digging work can begin, right?

Not so fast. Buried power lines, as well as other vital facilities, can be easily damaged and can be dangerous to encounter. Before you can safely cross or work close to an underground utility line with power digging equipment, you must discover the line with your own eyes.

First, use only hand tools like shovels or other non-intrusive methods to expose the line.

Whenever you hand dig near buried utility lines, take care to prevent damage:

- Use a rounded or blunt-edged shovel. Sharp tools like pickaxes, mattocks, pry bars or pointed spades may gouge or puncture lines.
- Begin digging off to the side of the marked utility line. Use a gentle, prying motion to break away soil as you approach the utility laterally.
- Utility depth can shift over time due to erosion and other natural forces, and the way utilities are run can start out shallow and go deeper (see illustration above).
- Never pry against a utility line to remove soil. Do not stab at the soil or stomp on the shovel with both feet.
- Dig until you uncover the actual line, not just a tracer wire or warning tape.
- Support exposed utility lines, if necessary, so they do not collapse under their own weight. This could require placing a heavy timber or pipe across the top of the trench, and then tying a rope from the timber or pipe to the utility line to support its weight.