

# Get The Full Scoop Before You Dig

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Careless digging causes disruption of utility services, costly damage, and personal injury. So before you dig, drill or blast, or do anything else that disturbs the ground using mechanical equipment, make sure you fully understand Maine's rules for safe digging.

- Pre-mark the boundaries of your proposed excavation with white paint, flags or stakes — before calling Dig Safe®. Add the excavator's initials to the pre-mark so locators know they are at the right site. If using a single stake to pre-mark, indicate the radius of the proposed excavation.
- Call 1-888-DIGSAFE at least three business days before digging or drilling.
- For emergency excavations, pre-mark and call Dig Safe. Dig Safe handles emergency locating requests 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Before blasting, notify Dig Safe at least one business day in advance.
- Notify "non-member" utilities, such as towns or cities and small utilities, since they may provide water, sewer, electric or other services.
- Re-notify Dig Safe and non-member utilities if the project does not occur within 30 calendar days or if the area to be excavated expands beyond the pre-marked area.
- For jobs involving several subcontractors, the excavator actually doing the digging must make sure the project has a Dig Safe job ticket.
- If Dig Safe, non-member utilities in the area and the property owners notify you that there are no utilities in the work area, you may start work immediately.

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- Maintain all marks. If marks are lost, call Dig Safe and non-member utilities for a re-mark.
- Hand dig when within 18 inches — in any direction — of marked lines, until they are exposed. Mechanical methods may be used for initial site penetration, such as removal of pavement or rock.
- If you find unmarked utilities, immediately notify the utility owner. Treat them as “live” until the owner visits the site and identifies them as abandoned.
- Do not backfill over unmarked or damaged lines without permission from the utility owner.
- Remember, Dig Safe requirements are in addition to street opening permit requirements of your town or city and/or the state DOT.
- If damage to a line occurs, and safety is a concern, immediately call 911 or the local fire department. For all events, notify the affected utility right away.
- You are required to report facility “hits,” unmarked or mismarked lines and other observed violations to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). By filing an Incident Report with the PUC, you’re helping make Maine a safer place to work. For an Incident Report form, visit [www.maine.gov/mpuc](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc) or call the PUC.

The PUC is taking an active enforcement role. The consequences for non-compliance are serious, and may include fines that could reach \$5,000 or more.

This card is only part of the story. For more on Maine’s Dig Safe requirements, check out the PUC Dig Safe brochure and rule.



Maine Public Utilities Commission  
242 State Street  
18 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0018  
(207) 287-3831 / 800-452-4699  
[www.maine.gov/mpuc](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc)



Dig Safe System, Inc.  
1-888-DIGSAFE (1-888-344-7233)  
[www.digsafe.com](http://www.digsafe.com)