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## Monthly Safety Blast

*Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education*

**April 2015**

### Pipeline Safety

Many farms and ranches have been passed down through a family for generations or operated by a single owner for decades. You or someone you know may remember when and where underground utilities were installed on your land. But the location and depth of these lines can change over the years due to erosion, previous digging projects or uneven surfaces, so it's important to call 811—even if you think you may know what is buried in the area.

#### **Pipeline Safety Tips:**

- If you observe any suspicious activity along pipeline right-of-way report it to the Pipeline Operator (PO).
- If you smell any type of odor that is unusual near a pipeline right-of-way report it ASAP.
- If you notice an excavator working on or near pipeline right-of-way and no pipeline personnel present at the site then report it.
- Develop awareness of where the pipeline facilities are located in your community.
- Be aware of what products/vehicles are being transported to and from the pipelines.
- If you discover any flammable, toxic or corrosive gas or liquid gas escaping from the pipeline, report it to 911 and PO.
- Observe the information provided on pipeline signs in your community.
- If you suspect anything unusual along pipeline right-of-way report it to the pipeline operator. It may turn out to be nothing, but that's ok. The pipeline personnel are committed to safety, and would like the opportunity to check it out. Better safe than sorry.

# Digging on the farm by the numbers

The approximate amount of time it takes to call 811

**4 1/2 MINUTES**

—OR—

**4 1/2 DAYS**

The average work delay due to hitting a pipeline while digging

**\$0**

The cost of calling 811 before digging



**99%**

The percentage of time work is completed without damage when the one call system is used prior to digging

**811**

A nationwide number that can save money and lives



You should always call 811, even if you believe you may be exempt under state one call laws. Like choosing to not text while driving, making a one call may not always be required by law—**but it's always the safest option.**

### 4 steps to dig with care

- C**all 811 Before You Dig
- A**llow required time for markings
- R**espect the marks
- E**xcavate carefully

Pipeline markers do **NOT** indicate the exact location of a pipeline.

Pipeline markers provide valuable information:

- Product(s) transported
- Operator of pipeline
- Contact information



It's never safe to assume the depth of pipelines

- Pipeline depth can change due to erosion, previous digging projects and other factors.

Visit [enbridge.com](http://enbridge.com) to learn more.



**myth:**  
811 IS ONLY FOR DIGGING.

811 applies to all dirt-moving activities like deep tilling, ditching, soil ripping, installing drain tile or utilities, stockpiling materials. It also includes building fences, buildings, roads and berms.

**myth:**  
I REMEMBER WHEN THE UTILITIES WERE PUT IN, AND I'VE CALLED 811 BEFORE. I DON'T NEED TO CALL AGAIN.

The depth of pipelines and other utilities can change over time. Please don't make risky assumptions—you don't want to be the neighbor who knocks out Internet, cable or vital services.

**myth:**  
I'M A FARMER OR RANCHER AND AM EXEMPT FROM ONE CALL NOTIFICATION, SO I DON'T NEED TO CALL 811.

You should always call 811, even if you believe you may be exempt under state one call laws. Like choosing to not text while driving, making a one call may not always be required by law—but it's always the safest option.

**myth:**  
I'M NOT DIGGING VERY DEEP. I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER ANYONE FOR A SMALL PROJECT.

The depth of pipelines and other utilities can change over the years due to erosion, digging projects or uneven surfaces. You're not bothering us by calling 811. We'd rather you be safe than sorry.

**myth:**  
CALLING 811 COSTS MONEY. I'M TRYING TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS, AND EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS.

Calling 811 is free—the cost is paid by utility companies to protect you and your employees or tenants.

**myth:**  
CALLING 811 WILL HOLD UP MY WORK. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CALL.

Calling 811 is fast. After you call, professional locators will be sent to the proposed excavation site within 2-3 business days.

**myth:**  
IF I HIT A PIPELINE AND NOTHING HAPPENS, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

Even if it appears the pipeline isn't damaged, always call the pipeline operator. Protective coating damage or even a small dent in the pipeline could cause a major problem in the future.

**811** Know what's below. Call before you dig.

**ENBRIDGE**

### **Before Digging or Planting:**

Comply with Texas law. Dial 811 or your local One Call Center to request to have pipelines located before digging or landscaping at least two days before starting your project. One Call is a free service that coordinates with utility companies to mark pipelines and other underground utility lines.

811 is a free, nationwide service designed to keep you safe when digging or excavating. Calling 811 is meant to be a simple process and is always the safest option any time you are moving dirt. Two to three business days before a soil-disturbing project, simply make a call to 811 with important details about your work, including:

- The type of work you will be doing and a description of the area
- The date and time when excavation will begin
- Your work site's street address, the road on which it is located and the nearest intersection
- Driving directions or GPS coordinates

After the call is made, professional locators will mark underground utilities. Pipelines will be marked with yellow flags or paint so you can conduct your work around them, saving yourself from potential injury or damage. Many states now offer online "811" options; visit [call811.com/state-specific.aspx](http://call811.com/state-specific.aspx) to find out if an online option is available in your state.

### **General Questions about TPAA:**

To request information about the Texas Pipeline Awareness Alliance, or to ask general questions, e-mail [info@pipeline-safety.org](mailto:info@pipeline-safety.org).

### **Resources:**

- [www.pipeline-safety.org](http://www.pipeline-safety.org)
- [www.enbridge.com](http://www.enbridge.com)

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Sharing is caring!



Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education. For more information, contact us at 903-877-5998 or by email to [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu).  
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