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Myths about Safe Digging

Farmers and Ranchers



Myth #1

**811 is only
for digging.**

The definition of “normal farming practices” can be interpreted in many ways and varies between states. So, calling 811 before any digging project is always the safe thing to do!

Some agricultural examples of when to call 811 include: drain tile installation projects, chisel plowing, subsoiling, deep ripping, building a waterway, digging fence posts and drilling water or irrigation wells, just to name a few.



Myth #2

**I remember
when the utilities
were put in, and
I've called
811 before.**



The depth of pipelines and other utilities can change over time due to natural forces such as erosion or other dirt moving activities. Or perhaps new facilities were installed since the last time you called 811.

Please don't make a risky assumption. You don't want to be the neighbor in your community who knocks out the internet, cable, or other vital services such as 911.





Myth #3

**I'm not
digging
very deep.**

**It is better to be safe than sorry
even for a small project.**

**The One Call center will notify the proper
utility companies so they can have an
employee or representative come out and
locate the approximate location of the
utilities before you dig.**



Myth #4

**Calling 811
will cost me
time and
money.**



**Calling 811 is FREE to you.
The cost is paid by utility companies to
protect you, and calling 811 is fast!**

**After you call, professional locators will be
sent to the site within two or three business
days. Also, calling in advance while you are
planning your project will help save you time.**





Myth #5

**If I hit a pipeline
and nothing happens,
there's nothing to
worry about.**

**Even if it appears the utility isn't damaged,
always call and notify the utility company.**

**Even a small dent, scrape, gouge or scratch
in a pipeline, or other apparently minor
damages, could cause a major problem
in the future.**



These five myths are just a few of the many reasons heard for not calling 811.

The fact is, underneath much of America's farmland lies buried pipeline and utilities. These utilities may carry natural gas or oil, electricity, communication lines or water. Any one of these utilities struck during a farming operation can cause dangerous consequences for you, your family, tenants, hired hands, your neighbors, your community and the environment, possibly impacting your farm for years.

Make the free call to 811 to get your underground utilities marked every time before you dig.

