

SAFE DIGGING TIPS



WHEN DO I HAVE TO CALL 811?

A call to 811 is required any time you *disturb* the ground. A few examples include repaving your driveway, repairing a building's foundation, installing a mailbox, removing a tree or building a deck. You never know where an underground utility might be located or how deep it's buried. Know what's below, call before you dig!

Before you start any project that requires digging, be sure to follow these important and potentially life-saving tips:

1.

CALL 811 FOR FREE UTILITY LOCATES

Call at least two days before you want to start your project. ENSTAR will come out and locate any underground pipelines that may run through your project area.



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

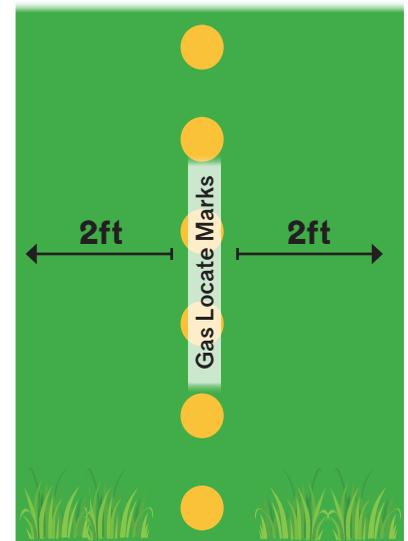
2.

RESPECT THE TOLERANCE ZONE

The "tolerance zone" is the two feet on either side of the locate marks.

Within the tolerance zone, only remove the dirt with your hand or gently with a shovel.

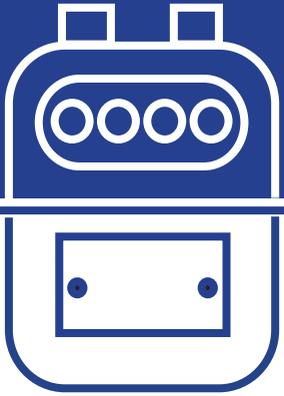
This reduces the chances of accidentally hitting ENSTAR's natural gas line.



IT'S THE LAW?

Yes! Calling 811 before digging is required under state and federal law. If you skip this important step and hit an underground utility, you could face charges from the utility or even federal fines. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), is the federal agency enforcing the one-call law in the State of Alaska. It can fine homeowners and contractors tens of thousands of dollars for failing to call 811 before digging. Last year, PHMSA issued fines totaling more than \$36,000 in Alaska for digging without a locate and damaging ENSTAR natural gas lines.





BEYOND YOUR METER: CONSTRUCTION

Do you ever see an ENSTAR truck at a construction site and wonder what we're doing? ENSTAR is often called to relocate pipelines for road construction projects such as drainage ditch and storm drain installations as well as road widening. Many of ENSTAR's construction projects are initiated by local governments and the State Department of Transportation. Other projects – such as installing service lines – are performed at the customer's or contractor's request. Each year, ENSTAR crews install new service lines, extend distribution pipelines, as well as work on several transmission pipeline projects. This summer, you might see us in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley as we work on a pipeline reinforcement project that will help us maintain reliable gas delivery to the coldest and furthest reaches of our service area. Or you might find us on the Kenai Peninsula constructing an 8-mile main extension to bring gas to South Kalifornsky Road.

Alaska's short construction season means that we have to get a lot of work done in just a few months. But safety is our priority. We call 811 for utility locates to be able to safely dig around our lines as well as other utility lines. You can't rush when it comes to safety and construction. That's a lesson you don't want to learn the hard way!



Jason, ENSTAR Quality Control/Welder

"I've worked at ENSTAR for eight years now. As a welder, the work I do supports the safety and integrity of ENSTAR's gas piping systems. I'm proud to be on a team that is always working with our customers' safety in mind. For example, I am involved with a project to improve our ability to inspect and maintain the large transmission pipeline responsible for bringing natural gas to our Anchorage customers. I'm thankful for ENSTAR's strong safety culture that keeps our customers safe and sends me and my co-workers home to our families safely at the end of each of day."

WHAT IS "BEYOND YOUR METER?"

This is the sixth part of a series that will take you beyond your meter by featuring a different area of ENSTAR's natural gas service each month.

Follow along with us this year as we explore gas contracting, ENSTAR's gas transportation system, and gas storage - to name a few.