



PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION

Act No. 218 from the 2017 Regular Session House Bill No. 389 provides for the authority of the Commissioner of Conservation to enforce laws for the prevention of damage to pipelines; to provide for and require certain procedures; to provide for adjudication of violations; to provide for penalties and other remedies; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters. (See LA RS 40:1749.27)

In 2017, Governor John Bel Edwards signed legislation granting authority to the Commissioner of Conservation to enforce Louisiana's Dig Law (RS 40:1749.11-27) on regulated pipeline right of ways.

These are pipelines that carry any gas that is flammable, corrosive or toxic (most are natural gas pipelines) and liquids lines that carry petroleum (crude oil, condensate, natural gasoline, natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gas), petroleum products (flammable, toxic or corrosive products obtained from distilling and processing of crude oil, unfinished oils, natural gas liquids, blend stocks and other miscellaneous hydrocarbon compounds), anhydrous ammonia and liquid CO₂. (State Police Hazmat must still be contacted concerning releases of hazardous materials).

Our Damage Prevention Program webpage can be viewed at:

www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1513

The enforcement program will be complaint based. For complaints concerning excavating without a One Call Ticket, unsafe digging practices, mismarking or no marks, the toll free contact number is 1-833-726-0410. Complaints can also be emailed to: PipelineInspectors@la.gov

Please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions.

Steven Giambrone
Office of Conservation
Pipeline Division Director

IT'S THE LAW!

The Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law states:

"It is public policy of this state to promote the protection of property, workmen, and citizens in the immediate vicinity of an underground facility or utility from damage, death or injury and to promote the health and well-being of the community by preventing the interruption of essential services which may result from the destruction of, or damage to, underground facilities or utilities."

**State law requires notification to 811
TWO FULL BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE DIGGING
OR DEMOLISHING.**

By law, anyone planning any demolition or excavating work in Louisiana must notify Louisiana 811 by calling **811** or **1-800-272-3020** or by going to our website **LOUISIANA811.COM** at least two full business days prior to the project's start date.

Excavators and contractors can enter excavation/demolition notifications via our online locate request entry system, once trained. Louisiana 811 accepts calls Monday thru Friday, excluding holidays, for routine locate requests. Damage and emergency locate requests may be called in or entered online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Locate requests made after 6:00 p.m. are considered the next business day. For a complete list of the legal holidays, visit our website at **LOUISIANA811.COM**

Please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions by calling (225) 275-3700.

Brent Saltzman
Executive Director
Louisiana 811

Louisiana 811
2215 West Boardwalk Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70816



KNOW WHAT'S BELOW
CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG.

Louisiana 811
LOUISIANA811.COM

EXCAVATOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

After I submit my dig request, how long do I have to wait to excavate?

Once we receive your excavation request, our member owners/operators have two business days to mark their lines. By law, you may not perform any excavation work during this time.

Can I submit my excavation request online?

Yes! Excavators and contractors can access our Web-based locate request entry system, NextGen. You will be required to provide the same type and amount of information online as you would over the phone. Prior training is required to use the system. Training sessions are available on request.

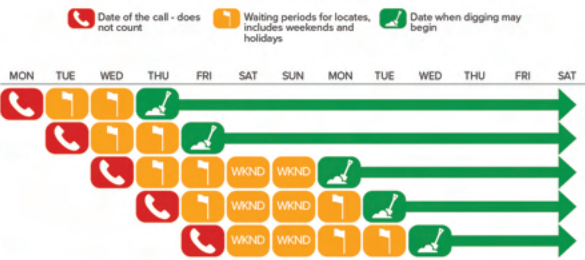
Is positive response required by law?

Yes. A utility operator or pipeline company must notify the excavator prior to the mark-by time if there is no conflict, or determine that its facilities are not fully marked for locating purposes.

Should I have a record of my request (e.g. locate request number) at my job site?

We recommend you do in case you hit a line or discover unmarked lines. If you need to call 811 from the excavation site, your locate request number allows us to reference your location quickly. Also, in the event that a utility owner or enforcement officer visits your job site, this information provides proof of your compliance with state law.

CALL TIMELINE EXAMPLES



HOLIDAYS

Louisiana 811 is open 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), for locate requests and is available 24/7 for emergency locate requests. Please keep in mind that any official holiday will not count towards your standard two full business day notice when filing locate requests.

What if the staking, marking or other designations aren't completed by the project start date?

Call 811 or 1-800-272-3020 if you have any questions or concerns about the status of your locate request before you start digging.

What if my excavation work is delayed after lines are marked?

Your locate request will expire in 20 calendar days. For forestry and agriculture locate requests, the expiration is 30 days. If excavation continues past that period, your locate request will need to be updated. You may update your locate request by three business days prior to the expiration date. You will receive the new expiration date when you submit your locate request.

What if I accidentally hit a line while I am digging?

If it is a non-hazardous line, notify the owner/operator directly. If an underground utility containing a hazardous material is damaged and hazardous material is leaking, the contractor is required to notify 911 immediately, as well as the LA State Police HazMat Unit at (877) 925-6595 & the owner/operator. Refer to Louisiana Dig Law.

Some of the marks at my excavation site have faded and several flags are missing. Can I get the lines re-marked?

Yes. Simply dial 811 or 1-800-272-3020 or notify online and request that your lines be re-marked. Once you submit your locate request, you must cease all excavation work and wait 2 full business days until the utility companies re-mark their lines.

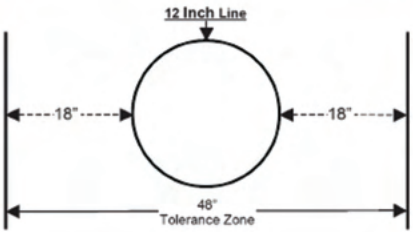
Does Louisiana 811 offer free training for excavators and contractors?

Yes! Louisiana 811 offers a number of training courses on the law, online locate request entry and many other subjects. Please contact your Louisiana 811 liaison to request a presentation or training course. You may also access our online excavator training course on our website.

TOLERANCE ZONES

Excavators should observe a "Tolerance Zone" when digging close to an underground utility or facility. The width of the Tolerance Zone is specified by law: The width of the facility (utility line or pipeline, etc.) as marked plus at least 18 inches, or 450 mm, measured horizontally from each side of the facility. See illustration.

Any excavation within a Tolerance Zone should be performed with non-powered hand tools or a non-invasive method until the marked facility is exposed.



PAINT OR FLAG COLOR INDICATORS

By law, property owners and excavators must use white paint, stakes or white flags to define the area of proposed excavation OR designate the excavation area via the Louisiana 811 online locate request entry system at Louisiana811.com.

Property Owners/Excavators mark area of Proposed Excavation

Louisiana 811 member utilities will use the color codes listed below when marking underground utilities where excavation will take place.

- Electric
- Temporary Survey Markings
- Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
- Communication, CATV, Fiber
- Water
- Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
- Sewer

FOR BEST RESULTS

- Have the following information available when you call:**
- Your Louisiana 811 frequent identification number, if you have one.
 - Date and time the work is scheduled to begin.
 - Parish and city in which the excavation will take place.
 - Specific location/address or description of the work site.
 - Nearest intersecting roadway to the work site.
 - Distance and direction of the work site from the nearest intersection.
 - The side of the street, road or highway on which the work will be taking place (north/south/east/west).
 - Description of the property and where the property should be marked.
 - Advise the Louisiana 811 operator if using explosives.
 - Advise the Louisiana 811 operator if directional boring will be performed.

Maintain the locate request number provided by the Louisiana 811 operator. It is your proof of the call and may be requested by an enforcement officer.

Use white paint, stakes or white flags to designate the area of proposed excavation.

Wait two business days for the site to be marked, excluding weekends, ticket submission date, and holidays, observe the marks, and dig with care. **Work shall commence within five days past the Mark By Time.**

If a utility is a metered service, lines typically will be marked "up to the meter," but not beyond because utility operators have no way of knowing what may have been installed on the customer-owned property. Always proceed with caution and watch out for unmarked lines.

Observe Tolerance Zones. If digging activity comes within 18 inches of a utility line or pipeline, exercise extreme caution. Hand digging is recommended within 18 inches on each side of the line/pipeline to expose the facility.

Markings for underground utilities are considered valid as long as they are visible up to 20 calendar days from the "Mark By" time (30 days for agricultural or forestry work). The "Mark By" time is provided by the Louisiana 811 operator and excludes holidays and weekends. For larger projects, call in only the work that can be accomplished with a 20-day period.

If damage occurs during excavation, notify the utility operator or pipeline company direct.

If an emergency situation occurs (immediate danger to life, health, or property or is the result of an unplanned utility outage and requires immediate action and that the excavator, or owner, or operator has personnel on site), Louisiana 811 is available for emergency locate requests 24/7 online or by calling 811 or 1-800-272-3020.

Some operators of underground facilities are not members of Louisiana 811. Examples include municipal water and sewer services. If they don't belong, then we don't have the information needed to notify them about planned excavations, and their lines won't be marked. If the names of these operators do not appear on your locate request, you should contact them direct.

Remember, it's the law to "Call or click before you dig." Civil penalties can range up to \$200,000 for violations of the Dig Law.