



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

DIGGER'S HOTLINE OF NEBRASKA

WHAT WE KNOW WILL SHOCK YOU!

SPRING 2008

DIGGER'S HOTLINE
CONSOLIDATED UTILITY
SERVICES, INC.
11620 ARBOR STREET
SUITE 101
OMAHA, NE 68144

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Using GPS
Coordinates

The Emergency
Locate

Have You Seen
our Cowboy?

Online Ticket
Requests—
NITES

Diggin' To the
Root of
Damages

Pipeline Safety

**We want to hear
from you!**
Visit our website
www.ne-diggers.com
**and send us your
comments.**



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Send Us Your Comments...

[Click here for more details](#)

DOES MY 3 IRON REQUIRE A ONE CALL?

The first warm day of Spring, a round of golf on a soft and mushy course still drying out from the snow and the first strong backswing of the season with a 3 iron (from a pair of shoulders that are also a bit soft and mushy from the long winter) all add up to a very good possibility that 1 of your 52 shots will displace a significant amount of soil. This scenario lends to the question: Does my 3 iron require a One Call, 2 business days prior to my backswing?

According to Nebraska Statute 76-2308: "Excavation shall mean any activity in which earth, rock or other material in or on the ground is moved or otherwise displaced by means of tools, equipment..." By definition, a One Call is required when taking that backswing. The chances of Digger's Hotline ever receiving such a request - about as good as that first tee shot being a hole-in-one.

I bring up this example to emphasize that according to Statutes, if you hit or damage any underground facility and you had not placed a locate request with Digger's Hotline at least 2 business days prior to that damage—you will be held responsible! Therefore, anytime—anywhere, whether it be firing up the garden tiller or replacing that slab of sidewalk, if you will be disturbing the soil, you must ask yourself, "Am I at risk of hitting anything?" With some utilities located less than 1 foot underground, chances are the answer will always be "Yes".

At the end of December 2007, Digger's Hotline conducted a Customer Survey that allowed us to reach out to our excavating community and ask questions regarding our services and their experience with One Call. An alarming statistic presented itself from this survey: Of the 1,441 professional excavators surveyed, only 620 of them had ever placed a locate request for their personal residence or property. 57% of the professional excavators that understand and adhere to the One Call Law for their professional life either disregarded or did not understand that the Law also applies in their personal life.

Homeowners and personal property owners are not exempt from the One Call Law nor are they denied the free service that allows them to protect themselves. For professional excavators and home owners and property owners, the call is free, the service is free and the peace of mind is priceless in knowing that you have taken the steps to protect you, your family and your pocketbook. Everyone, everywhere, every time...Call Before You Dig!

Wishing you all a Safe Dig Season!

Susan Griess
Director, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska

57% of the professional excavators that understand and adhere to the One Call Law for their professional life either disregarded or did not understand that the Law also applies in their personal life.

USING GPS COORDINATES TO PLACE YOUR LOCATE REQUEST

When using GPS Coordinates to place a Locate Request with Digger's Hotline of Nebraska the following format must be used:

Datum setup on the GPS Device in **NAD83 Format.**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates provided in the proper Decimal Degrees with a + and – Coordinate.

Example:

Latitude: + 40.89750

Longitude: - 098.33917

There are several tools available to convert your GPS Data from NAD27 to NAD83. Please follow the link:

<http://www.towermaps.com/nad.htm>

for further information regarding GPS Coordinates and resources for converting the Datum formats.

DON'T FORGET TO

WHITELINE!

Marking your dig site with white paint or flags prior to it being located helps to increase the timeliness and accuracy of the locate.

THE EMERGENCY LOCATE!

It's the weekend, an unexpected warm front has come through the area and the local nursery is having a whopper of a sale on shrubs...

Does the above scenario provide an exception to the 48 hour waiting rule and allow you to call in your unplanned weekend landscaping project for an emergency locate?

According to Nebraska Statute 76-2307, an Emergency Condition shall mean any condition which constitutes a clear and present danger to life, health, or property or which demands immediate action to prevent or repair a major service outage. Therefore a weekend landscaping project does not fall into that definition.

Poor planning on the part of

the excavator DOES NOT constitute an Emergency. If your request does not fall into the parameters of a defined emergency – you will be required to wait 2 business days or until all facilities have been located prior to any excavation activity.

Repeated violations to requesting an Emergency Locate Request when no emergency condition exists may result in a complaint being filed to the Nebraska Attorney General's Office.

Examples of Emergency Locate Requests, but not limited to:

- Blowing or leaking gas lines
- Repairing downed fence that secures livestock.

- Repair to water lines that serve large facilities. i.e.: nursing homes, hospitals, schools
- Repair of crucial cable or fiber serving business and industry

Examples of NON Emergency Requests, but not limited to:

- Installation or repair of fence on personal property
- Repair or installation of underground sprinklers
- Planting a tree or any landscaping
- Installing cable for personal residence



The repair of a fence that secures livestock constitutes an Emergency Locate.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR COWBOY?

Digger's Hotline of Nebraska is pleased to announce our partnership with Jeff Richardson from Fullerton, Nebraska. Jeff is a registered contestant with the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association, Mid State Rodeo Association and Nebraska State Rodeo Association and competes across Nebraska and the surrounding States in rodeo competitions throughout the year.

In 2008, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska will be sponsoring Jeff Richardson in his rodeo pursuits. The sponsorship will include displaying a full advertising layout on the

horse trailer that travels with him to all Rodeo events along with Digger's Hotline logos placed on all competition shirts.

In an effort to educate and promote the usage of the 811 number and the importance of Calling Before You Dig, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska will be hosting a "WHERE'S JEFF?" contest throughout 2008.

The traveling trailer will display a logo with the following: *Seen Jeff? Call 811 and tell us where!* All callers will be asked their name, address, city and



county in which they spotted Jeff. Everyone that calls Digger's Hotline with a Jeff sighting will be entered into a quarterly prize drawing to be announced later in the year.

Be on the lookout for our Cowboy!



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

ONLINE TICKET REQUESTS - SAVE TIME AND DO YOUR OWN MAPPING!

New technologies over the years have created opportunities to reduce the amount of time required to place a locate request. Internet submissions have eliminated long hold times on the phone and provided the requester the ability to take control of their locate information.

Currently, Digger's Hotline offers two methods for submitting locate requests via your computer—Email and NITES Internet Entry. On the homepage of the Digger's Website: www.ne-diggers.com, there are 2 different links that allow the requester to submit their locate request in two very different ways.

Email Submission:

By accessing the email link on the Diggers website (example at right) an individual can submit all their locate information in text email format. Once received by our offices, the locate request will be processed and a ticket number and start time will be delivered via email to the requestor. If any information on the email request is incomplete or not accurate, the request will be returned for further information. As emails that are returned for further information may delay the requestors start time, it is very important that all locate instructions are correct.



This link will allow you to submit your locate request via email.

NITES-Internet Ticket Entry:

After completing a short 45 minute training and being issued a NITES user ID, you will have the ability to directly enter your locate request into our system. This method allows the requestor to do their own data entry and mapping. Upon submitting the request, the user will immediately be issued a ticket number and start time. You will no longer have to wait for a reply from us!



This link on the Digger's website will allow you to directly submit your locate request and do your own mapping.

To schedule a free over-the-phone NITES training or a group training at your organization, please call the Digger's administrative offices at 402-330-1866.

Diggin' To The Root of Damages!

Number of 2007

Reported One Call

Damages per Facility:

Telecom: 992

CATV: 505

Electric: 233

Natural Gas: 172

Water: 60

Sewer: 16

Liquid Pipe: 1

Facility Unknown: 530

In 2007 there were 2,309 reported damages to Digger's Hotline of Nebraska. These damages occurred across the entire state with specific areas of concentration being Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, Scottsbluff and South Sioux City areas.

From the One Call Damage Ticket data received by Digger's Hotline, as relayed by the caller, the top 3 recurring causes of damage included:

- Facility not marked prior to damage
- Damage occurred beyond 10 days of start time with no update ticket requested
- Facility mismarked at the time of damage

Additional recurring causes can be viewed on the graph below.

Nebraska Statute 76-2326 states that if any underground facility is damaged, dislocated or disturbed before or during excavation, the excavator shall immediately notify the center. Unfortunately, this requirement is often overlooked and the information is not reported to One Call or the excavator works directly with the damaged facility company in reporting the damage.

Digger's Hotline uses DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool) to record and report all Nebraska damages. This tool was developed and is managed by the Common Ground Alliance and is used to confidentially analyze, trend and report underground facility damage data on a Nationwide basis. The latest version of the DIRT report for 2006 was released in March 2008 and can be found on the CGA Website: www.commongroundalliance.com

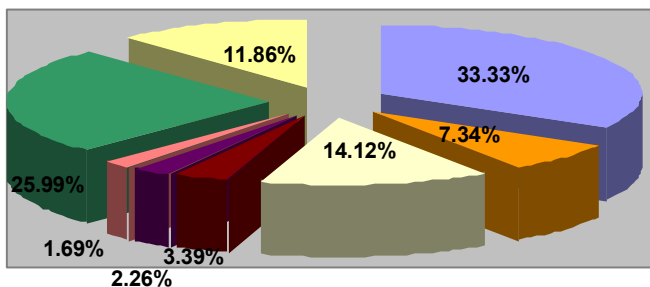
Without all Nebraska damage data, Digger's Hotline does not have the

ability to accurately analyze, trend and report damage data. This analysis is needed to assist Digger's Hotline in identifying areas for education both to the excavator and the utility owner.

There are many ways to report damage or exposed facility information to Digger's Hotline, the most obvious of them being the request of an Emergency Damage Locate. In an effort to compile the most comprehensive information regarding the damage, we also ask that you call or email any additional damage information that is not normally required to place the locate request. This can be done after the fact and you can either call the center at 811 to report the information or call or email the Director of Digger's Hotline at: susan.griess@cusinc.com 402-334-3424.

Damage Prevention is a shared responsibility. Please commit to that responsibility by reporting all damage information to Digger's.

ROOT CAUSE OF DAMAGE AS REPORTED ON ONE CALL TICKET JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008



- ROOT CAUSE OF DAMAGE UNKNOWN
- NO PRIOR LOCATE REQUEST
- DAMAGE OCCURRED BEYOND 10 DAYS OF START TIME
- EXCAVATION CONDUCTED NOT BY INSTRUCTIONS ON LOCATE REQUEST
- EXCAVATION OCCURRED BEFORE 48 HOUR WAITING PERIOD
- LOCATE REQUEST WAS UPDATED AND EXCAVATION OCCURRED BEFORE 48 HOURS
- DAMAGED FACILITY WAS NOT MARKED
- DAMAGED FACILITY WAS MISMARKED

USE YOUR SENSES!

WARNING SIGNS OF A POSSIBLE LEAK

LOOK:

- Dirt blowing in to the air or water bubbling in a pond, creek or river.
- Fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above ground.
- Unexplained spots of dying or dead vegetation.
- Moist spot in a dry field.



LISTEN:

- Sounds of roaring, blowing or hissing.



SMELL:

- Gas or petroleum odor.



FOR MORE INFORMATION :

- The National Pipeline Mapping System www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov
- Local phone listings for area operators. Contact numbers also listed on company pipeline markers
- The Nebraska Pipeline Association - www.npa-awareness.com
- Digger's Hotline of Nebraska www.ne-diggers.com
- Common Ground of Nebraska www.nebraska-cga.com
- Common Ground Alliance Best Practices www.commongroundalliance.com
- 811 Resources www.call811.com

Pipeline Safety

Pipelines - What Would We Do Without Them!

Pipelines are the safest method of transporting hydrocarbon products, including natural gas and crude oil. These products are used to produce many of the products we use everyday. Examples of these products include: Plastics, synthetic fabrics, fuel for vehicles as well as for home heating and cooking and much more.

Damage Prevention Awareness:

A major cause of leaks from pipelines is damage caused by someone accidentally striking a pipeline when digging in the pipeline right-of-way. It's possible that the strike may only cause what appears to be minimal damage - a scratch in the pipeline coating. However, it can weaken or remove a pipeline's corrosion preventing coating and subsequently lead to a leak months or years later.

Awareness of Hazards and Prevention Measures:

Pipeline operators use markers to identify the approximate location of a pipeline. These markers are often located at intervals along the right-of-way and typically at road crossings, fence lines, railroad crossings and waterways.

The markers display a warning, identify the product carried and list the operator's toll-free number for reporting pipeline emergencies. The State One Call number may also be listed on

the marker. Markers should never be used as a reference for the exact position of a pipeline. Most companies require a representative on site if excavation will be in their right-of-way. It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker required by federal law.

To promote safe operations of their pipelines and maintain pipeline integrity, most operators also initiate the following: Hydro test, Smart Pig, 24/7 Monitoring and the use of cathodic protection.

How to Respond to a Possible Leak:

- Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment.
- Leave area quickly in an upwind or crosswind direction.
- Warn others to stay away.
- From a safe distance, call 911, the pipeline company and Digger's Hotline at 800-331-5666.

NEVER: Smoke or light matches, use open flames or any other ignition sources or attempt to repair damages or operate a pipeline valve.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Public Safety Officials: Secure the area around the leak to a safe distance.

Take steps to prevent ignition sources if the leak is not burning. If the pipeline leak is burning, prevent the spread of fire but do not attempt to extinguish the pipeline fire.

Contact the pipeline company as quickly as possible.

Pipeline Operators: Immediately dispatch personnel to the

site to help handle the emergency and provide information to public safety officials.

Take the necessary operating actions to minimize the impact of the leak.

Citizens: Contact the pipeline company and local authorities if you see suspicious activity or other non-routine excavation around a pipeline facility or right of way.

ROW Encroachment:

Encroachments upon the pipeline right-of-way (ROW) inhibit the operator's ability to reduce the chance of third-party damage, provide ROW surveillance, perform routine maintenance and required federal or state inspections. Maintaining a pipeline ROW free of encroachments is an essential element of maintaining pipeline integrity and safety.

Requesting a locate through Digger's Hotline:

The One-Call Notification System Act; Revised Statutes of Nebraska Sections: 76-2301 through 76-2330 states that everyone, everywhere must contact Digger's Hotline 2 business days prior to excavating or disturbing the soil anywhere in the state of Nebraska. The service is FREE and it helps to save lives by minimizing damages to underground utilities. Upon contacting Digger's Hotline either via phone or internet, you will be asked all the necessary information regarding your planned "dig", Digger's Hotline will notify the affected utility companies, who will then mark the underground lines for free. Call Before You Dig: Dial 811 Nationwide or 800-331-5666 Statewide. **It's the LAW!**





Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Digger's Hotline of Nebraska
Consolidated Utility Services, Inc.
11620 Arbor Street, Suite 101
Omaha, NE 68144

Nebraska State One Call Board of Directors

Lance Loschen, Chairman - Lincoln Wastewater Systems
Dan Maschka, Vice Chairman - Northern Natural Gas
Mark Ottemann, Treasurer - Department of Roads
Jim McKeon, Secretary - Nebraska Public Power District
Jim Cadwallader - Qwest Communications
Al Meyer - Hastings Utilities
Al Schroeder - Windstream Communications
Bill Hartman - Excavating Contractor
Bruce Hoehne - Stanton County Public Power District
Chris Jacobsen - Custer County Highway Superintendent
Chuck Pattavina - Metropolitan Utilities District
Clark Conklin - State Fire Marshal's Office
Jeff Stoolman - Enterprise Products
Lanna Machmuller - SourceGas
Lyle Juracek - City of Neligh
Mark Ottemann - Department of Roads
Randy Evans - Norris Public Power District
Tim Proksel - Aquila
Rick Melcher - City of Aurora
Jim Smith - Omaha Public Power District
Cheyenne Wohlford - Galaxy Cable
Daniel Staack - Frontier Communications

Nebraska One Call - Digger's Hotline

Susan Griess, Director
402-334-3424
susan.griess@cusinc.com

Connie Tucker, Operations Manager
402-330-1866
connie.tucker@cusinc.com

Lisa English, Senior CSR and Training Specialist
402-330-1866

Carl Larsen, Western Nebraska Outreach Liaison
308-432-2711

Jill Geyer, Billing Specialist
402-334-8150 ext 119

TO PLACE A LOCATE REQUEST:

Dial 811 Nationwide, 800-331-5666 Statewide or
344-3565 Metro Omaha

Email Request Link: www.ne-diggers.com

Place your request at least 2 business days in advance!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your thoughts and ideas about the one call process are important to the Board Members of the One Call notification center. Please direct your comments to Digger's Hotline by calling the center at 402-330-1866 or by submitting your comments via the homepage of our website at www.ne-diggers.com. You may also contact any of the State One Call Board Members listed above. Their individual contact information is available on the website under the "About Us" link. If you have concerns or ideas and would like to address the Board at a meeting, requests must be sent in writing to the Chairman or directed through Diggers Hotline. Arrangements will be made to add the topic to the next available Board meeting agenda.