

# PREVENTING PIPELINE DAMAGE

## Canadian Energy Pipeline Association

### Our Challenge

One of the greatest single cause of damage to pipelines is accidental damage caused by excavation and construction around pipelines.

### Why it Matters

To protect people, CEPA's vision is to achieve zero damage to pipelines from excavation and construction.

- Pipeline damage caused by third parties is greatest risk to public safety because of the proximity of the person(s) to the pipeline when these incidents occur.
- Damage caused by third party excavation around pipelines is one of the most common causes of leaks and explosions on transmission pipelines in Canada.
- Since 2000, twenty deaths in the U.S. could have been prevented by safe digging practices.
- Fortunately there have not been any fatalities in Canada as a result of transmission pipeline incidents but a number of near misses have occurred. Some pipeline ruptures have resulted in environmental impacts.
- The potential consequences of damage to pipelines range from service disruptions to catastrophes including loss of life, serious injury, and/or significant environmental impact, as evidenced in the U.S.
- The risks of pipeline damage are rising as the population grows - more people means more construction which means more excavation.
- Pipeline damage caused by excavation and construction around pipelines is **entirely preventable**.

### A Shared Responsibility

Both pipeline companies and the digging community have a responsibility to protect workers, the public, and the environment by acting in a prudent manner.

Pipeline operators must recognize, accept and fulfill their responsibilities which include:

- Constructing pipelines in accordance with accepted practices and governing regulations.
- Responding, in a timely manner, to requests for line locates from the digging community.
- Developing an awareness of and respect for the digging community's concerns and the constraints under which it does business.
- Being proactive in damage prevention activities.

The digging community must recognize, accept and fulfill its responsibilities which include:

- Recognizing the dangers in disturbing the ground near pipelines.
- CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
- Requesting, in a timely manner, that pipeline operators identify and mark the locations of their pipelines before digging.
- Digging carefully to reduce ground damage near pipelines on buried facilities in accordance with pipeline company procedures.
- Reporting any damages to the operator of the pipeline.

# Call Before You Dig

## Our Actions

Our member companies routinely work alongside the digging community, developers, municipal works departments as well as individual contractors and landowners to promote awareness of safe digging practices.

In addition, CEPA is actively involved in three key industry initiatives that will reduce the risk of third party damage to Canada's transmission pipelines:

- Implementation of a three digit call number similar to the 811 number established in the U.S.
- Advancement of a mandatory one-call system across Canada, that would require any party planning to dig to call before digging and all owners of buried facilities to be members of the one-call.
- Implementation of enforcement rules that would allow regulators and other agencies responsible for pipeline safety to impose fines on parties that have not followed prescribed one-call and excavation rules.

CEPA is also a national partner of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance ([www.canadiancga.com](http://www.canadiancga.com)), the voice of Canada's Regional Partner CGAs, dedicated to working toward damage prevention solutions that will benefit all Canadians.

## One Call to Ensure Safety

Most Canadian provinces have a call before you dig program or one-call system for those planning any excavation nearby pipelines.

Dial the toll-free one-call number in your province or contact your local pipeline company before starting any digging or other work that may result in contact with underground pipelines.

These call systems are there for anyone who plans on disturbing the ground near pipelines - the call operators will help locate buried pipeline and facilities prior to any digging, usually within 48 to 72 hours of receiving the call.

The one-call centre will notify all member owners and operators of buried utilities, including transmission pipelines so they can mark their facilities with spray paint or flags to avoid any damage to pipelines and risk to public safety.

### Canada

British Columbia	1.800.474.6886
Alberta	1.800.242.3447
Saskatchewan	1.866.828.4888
Manitoba	Various
Ontario	1.800.400.2255
Quebec	1.800.663.9228
New Brunswick	
Enbridge - NB	1.800.994.2762
Saint John	1.866.344.5463
Nova Scotia	
Heritage Gas	1.866.313.3030
Nova Scotia Power	1.800.428.6230

### United States

811

In the United States 811 is designated as the National One-Call number.