

Digger's Hotline of Nebraska...

Sharing the Commitment to Underground Damage Prevention and Public Safety.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 7: Governor's Proclamation Signing-National Safe Digging Month.

*April 15: Digger's Hotline One Call Breakfast** - Douglas County.*

April 20: Common Ground of Nebraska Quarterly Meeting-Lincoln, NE.

July 23: Digger's Hotline at the Omaha Royals

*July 29: Call Before you DIVOT Golf Tournament** - Lincoln, NE.*

October 2010: Underground Locator Workshops-Grand Island, NE. Stay Tuned for more details!

***Visit our website for further information and to register www.ne-diggers.com*

PROFESSIONAL EXCAVATOR VS. THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNER

Who Holds the Responsibility for Placing the Underground Utility Locate Request?

Placing an underground utility locate request 48 business hours prior to any project that will disturb the soil, anywhere in the State of Nebraska, not only protects you, your property and your pocketbook it also protects you from breaking the law.

The One Call Notification Act and the corresponding State Statutes are put in place to assist and protect the individual that will be conducting the specific task of excavation that is listed on a One Call Locate Request issued by Digger's Hotline of Nebraska. In simple terms, the individual actually placing the shovel in the ground or disturbing the soil in any manner, needs to be the individual listed on the One Call Locate Request.

The property owner has the personal responsibility to hire a contractor that will professionally and safely complete the work they are hired to do. It is the contractor's responsibility to place the locate request for the work they are hired to do and ensure all the underground utilities are located prior to the excavation work. This is necessary to protect the underground infrastructure and protect themselves from physical harm and financial liability.

The contractor has the intimate knowledge regarding the scope of work involved in the excavation project and only they can accurately provide the needed information regarding type of excavation, location, instructions and depth of the excavation project. This information is communicated to the affected utilities and is used to determine the scope of the excavation project and the associated location of the underground facilities.

In the event an underground utility is damaged during the excavation project, and the individual conducting the excavation was not listed on the locate request, they will assume the liability associated with not having a locate request prior to digging. That liability assumption can include physical or financial liability, or both. In some instances, this has led to civil action enforced by the Attorney General's Office.

If you are a homeowner or personal property owner, ensure your contractor has placed a locate request with Digger's Hotline prior to any excavation project that will disturb the soil. If your contractor refuses to place the locate request or insists you as the property owner place the request you may want to reconsider your choice of contractor.

If you are a contractor; protect yourself, your pocketbook and your reputation for quality and safety by placing your locate request with Digger's Hotline 48 business hours in advance of your excavation project.

Nebraska One Call Notification Stakeholder Focus:

Damage prevention to underground facilities and public safety involves various stakeholder industries in the State of Nebraska and across the United States. The Nebraska One Call Law affects the different stakeholders in many ways that are unique to their industry. Many of the best practices found in the State of Nebraska have not been written into law, but instead naturally developed over the years as the various stakeholders found a common ground to work with each other in the most productive way for their individual industries, while adhering to the Nebraska One Call Notification Statutes.

In an effort to continue and foster open communication among the stakeholder groups and continue the growth of successful best practices within the State of Nebraska, the DHON Newsletter features individual stakeholder industries in this and upcoming editions. It is our intent to educate among stakeholders the unique challenges found within the various stakeholder industries. This edition features The Utility Operator.

FROM THE DESK OF THE UTILITY OPERATOR...

Standby Required...Guard and Protect Required... Monitor Required...What Does it All Mean?

“Standy Required” - You may have seen a similar warning on a locate flag from time to time. What does it mean and why are these warnings used? Here’s a quick explanation and a few guidelines for those who may have encountered them:

From the viewpoint of a utility provider or operator, as described in 76-2313 of state statute, it is a serious request for caution when digging around a very high profile underground facility. So what constitutes a high profile facility? A high pressure gas line, fiber optic telecommunications line, high voltage power transmission cable, or a large water line, just to name a few.

In other words, a *Standby Required*, *Guard and Protect Required* or *Monitor Required* message indicates that a very high profile piece of facility critical to the successful and safe operation of an organization is buried below. It also means that damage to the buried facility could present clear and imminent danger to life, health or property. Not convinced?

Cut a fiber optic telecommunications line and thousands of people may be denied access to a 911 center or police or a hospital. Damage or cut a high pressure gas transmission line, and fire and explosions or death are often the result. Dig into a buried high voltage power transmission line and the experience could be the shock of your life.

Most of the locate flags with these or similar warnings are a note from the operator or their locate technician that they want one of their technicians on site while the excavation is underway and their facility is out of harm’s way. So do yourself, your company and the community a favor—be on the alert for these important alerts.

Jim Cadwallader
Local Network Manager
Qwest Communications

Q: QUESTION: *To avoid delay to my excavation project and expensive down time, how do I coordinate a “Stand By” with the Utility Locator?*

A: ANSWER: *Understand that truck time for a Utility Locator and down time for an Excavator are both significant factors when it comes to coordinating a “Stand By”. Communication and consideration of everyone’s schedules and workloads are the heartbeat of a successful One Call System. The One Call provides the Excavator with a list of the Utilities Notified and provides to the Utility, the name and phone number of the Excavator. Using this contact information to communicate the requested actions or mutual schedules is the most direct and efficient way to successfully coordinate a Stand-By locate with minimal truck time and down time.*

Central Valley Irrigation Recognized for their Efforts in Underground Damage Prevention

In recognition of the outstanding efforts to promote strong stakeholder communication, underground utility damage prevention and safe excavation practices, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska is pleased to recognize Central Valley Irrigation with the Commitment to Safety Award.



Jeremiah Johnson and Monty Vonasek with Central Valley Irrigation

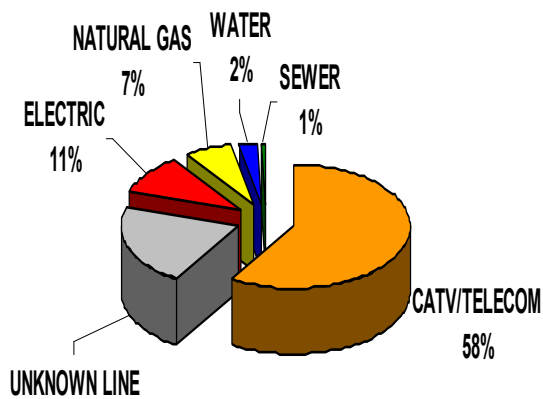
Central Valley Irrigation headquartered in Holdrege, Nebraska with operations also out of Lexington; employs 33 and has historically understood the importance of underground utility locates prior to digging. In 2009, the company placed 234 underground utility locate requests for excavation projects throughout Central Nebraska.

In 2008, Jeremiah Johnson with Central Valley Irrigation began attending the Common Ground of Nebraska quarterly meetings in an effort to educate himself and other Stakeholders on the unique challenges found within the industry of rural irrigation and safe excavation practices.

Since 2008, Jeremiah along with Central Valley Irrigation's owner, Monty Vonasek, have become key players in the CGN organization and outreach efforts of the "Call Before You Dig" message to the excavating community. Serving on the CGN Communication's Task Force, organizing an opportunity for a Nebraska Excavator Roundtable Discussion and recruiting local excavators to participate in shared responsibility, demonstrates Central Valley Irrigation's commitment to public safety and the integrity of Nebraska's underground utility infrastructure.

It's the Law! Reporting Nebraska Underground Utility Damage

Type of Utility Damaged



2009 Nebraska Damages as reported to Digger's Hotline.

The Nebraska One Call Notification Act requires all underground utility damage be reported to Digger's Hotline. **Nebraska Statute: 76-2326. Damage; duty of excavator**— "If any underground facility is damaged, dislocated, or disturbed before or during excavation, the excavator shall immediately notify the center. An excavator shall not conceal or attempt to conceal damage, dislocation, or disturbance of an underground facility and shall not repair or attempt to repair the underground facility unless authorized by the operator of the underground facility".

This Statute is in place to protect the integrity of the underground utility infrastructure, ensure public safety and reduce the occurrence of potential service outages. As an excavator, reporting any damages or disturbance to an underground facility will also protect you from any potential liability when a previous damage, that was illegally concealed by a prior excavator, is discovered by the underground utility operator.

Reporting a damage is done in the same manner as reporting an Emergency Locate Request. All damages must be reported via a phone call to Digger's Hotline to include weekends and holidays. Information required will include: Ticket number of previous locate request (if applicable), contact information of the caller, address and location of damage, type of utility damaged (if known) and crew on site information. Please see page 5 of this Newsletter for information regarding pipeline emergencies.

Call Before you DIVOT ! 1st Annual Golf Tournament



**WHERE: CROOKED
CREEK GOLF
COURSE**
333 S. 134th Street
Lincoln, NE

WHEN:
JULY 29, 2010
Registration Deadline:
July 1st

**REGISTRATION
BEGINS AT 7:15 AM
SHOTGUN START AT
8:00 AM**

**COST: \$50 PER
PLAYER -INCLUDES
18 HOLES , CART
AND LUNCH**

The Nebraska One Call Board of Directors and Digger's Hotline of Nebraska invite you to attend our 1st Annual "Call Before You Divot" Golf Tournament.

Tournament is open to all Stakeholders involved in Underground Damage Prevention. All Excavators, Professional Contractors, Underground Utility Operators and Underground Utility Locators are encouraged to attend this 18 hole, 2 person scramble.

To register please complete and return the following information:

Name:

Company Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Type of Industry Employed In: Excavation, Professional Contractor, Underground Utility Operator, Underground Utility Locator or Other.

Checks payable to: Nebraska One Call Board of Directors
C/O Digger's Hotline of Nebraska
11620 Arbor Street, Suite 101.
Omaha, NE 68144

For additional information please contact:

Susan Lynch, 402-334-3424 or susan.lynch@cusinc.com



**DIGGER'S HOTLINE OFFICES WILL
BE MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION
EFFECTIVE APRIL 2010.
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS
WITH OUR NEW ADDRESS:**

***GREAT PLAINS ONE CALL
DIGGER'S HOTLINE OF NEBRASKA
4141 N. 156TH STREET
SUITE 200
OMAHA, NE 68116***

DON'T FORGET TO PREMARK YOUR EXCAVATION SITE!

Pre-marking or white lining your proposed excavation site prior to the utilities locating their underground facilities leads to more efficient and accurate utility markings. The pre-marks can be placed onsite, prior to or immediately after placing a locate request with Digger's Hotline.

When placing the locate request, please reference that the proposed excavation site will be marked. This alerts the utility locators to search for the white flags, paint or other referenced markings that designate the proposed excavation site.

Digger's Hotline has white flags available upon request for those company's or individuals needing assistance with the pre-mark process.



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. Besides interruption of service and possible financial liability, hitting a gas line could injure or kill you and others.

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 811 or 800-331-5666.

NEVER: Smoke or light matches, create sparks, use open flames or any other ignition sources such as electrical switches or an engine start. Never attempt to repair damages or operate a pipeline valve. Do not drive into or go near the area of the gas leak.

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. **Dial 811 and Call Before You Dig. It's the LAW!**

WARNING SIGNS OF A POSSIBLE LEAK

LOOK: Dirt blowing into the air. Water bubbling in a pond, creek or river or a rainbow sheen on top of the water. Fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above ground. Unexplained spots of dying or dead vegetation. A moist spot or a pool of liquid in a dry field.

LISTEN: Sounds of roaring, blowing or hissing.

SMELL: Gas or petroleum odor, the smell of rotten eggs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :

- The National Pipeline Mapping System www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov
- Local phone listings for area operators. Contact numbers are also listed on company pipeline markers
- The Nebraska Pipeline Association - www.nebraskapipeline.com
- Common Ground of Nebraska - www.nebraskacga.com
- Common Ground Alliance www.commongroundalliance.com

Digger's Hotline of Nebraska
11620 Arbor Street, Suite 101
Omaha, NE 68144
www.ne-diggers.com

Nebraska State One Call Board of Directors

Lance Loschen, Chairman - Lincoln Wastewater Systems
Val Snyder, Vice Chairman - Kinder Morgan Pipelines
Mark Ottemann, Treasurer - Department of Roads
Jim McKeon, Secretary - Nebraska Public Power District
Dan Maschka - Northern Natural Gas
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
Lanna Machmuller - SourceGas
Lyle Juracek - City of Neligh
Randy Evans - Norris Public Power District
Tim Proksel - Black Hills Energy
Rick Melcher - City of Aurora
Jim Smith - Omaha Public Power District
Stan Waterman - Embarq
Mark McFarland - Great Plains Communications
Ed Cole - Consolidated Companies

Digger's Hotline of Nebraska

Susan Lynch, Director
402-334-3424, susan.lynch@cusinc.com

Lisa English, One Call Supervisor
402-330-1866, lisa.english@cusinc.com

Billing/Invoicing and Promotional Items
Jill Geyer: 402-738-2170, jill.geyer@cusinc.com

NITES Inquiries
Brian Power 402-738-2171 or nites@ne-diggers.com

Online Requests (via Email)
Grace Wilgus 402-738-2171, info@ne-diggers.com

Spanish Speaking Callers
Christina Ramos 402-738-2173

TO PLACE A LOCATE REQUEST:
Dial: 811 Nationwide, 800-331-5666 Statewide or
344-3565 Metro Omaha
Online: 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.