

# SAFETY ALERT

## UNDERGROUND UTILITY STRIKES

**WSBC Recent Incidents Link:** [Recent incidents - WorkSafeBC](#)  
**ID Number:** 2023197990001

Underground utilities include but are not limited to communication lines, power lines, natural gas pipes, sewers, and water pipes. There are many risks associated with unground utility work. Contacting underground facilities can cause injury to people nearby and properties. Before disturbing the ground, know your responsibilities to control the risk.

### Best Practices:

1. Tolerance Zone: do not dig with pointed tools or machinery within the tolerance zone
2. Contact BC 1 Call: to have lines marked before the job begins.
3. Physically Mark: provide marking instructions for specific areas where locates are needed
4. Stop Excavation: if you come across unmarked lines, stop work immediately and contact BC 1 Call.



## REDUCE YOUR RISK

Underground utility work strikes can cause a lot of damage. It is important to brief crews on how to safely dig around underground utility lines and what to do if you hit underground facilities.

### A few safety tips:

<b>1</b>	<b>Clear the area</b> Do not stay in the area. Clear the entire area and assess the situation from afar.
<b>2</b>	<b>Be aware of your surroundings</b> Look for any fire sparks and be mindful of the smell of natural gas. Move away from the area and avoid sparks of any kind. Call 911 immediately.
<b>3</b>	<b>Contact the utility company</b> Call the responsible utility company and provide details on what has happened.

### Additional WorkSafeBC Resources:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/resource-sheets/excavation-locating-underground-facilities-services?lang=en>

### BC 1 Call:

<https://www.bc1c.ca/>