



## Tips of the Trade

### Overhead and underground safety practices

Welcome to National Grid's Tips of the Trade. National Grid is committed to your safety and these tips are intended to help you work safely near our facilities. Please review these tips with your coworkers at your tailgate or toolbox meetings before work begins.

**Please help us improve our safety tips to meet your training needs. Take our two-minute survey.**

[Take Survey](#)

#### Look up and live

- **Carefully examine the site for overhead power lines, poles and guy wires, and point them out to coworkers.** Take extra care to look for lines that may be masked by foliage or otherwise blocked from view.
- **Consider all overhead power lines to be energized and potentially dangerous,** including the service lines that run from utility poles to buildings.
- **Mark a safety boundary** to keep workers, tools and equipment a safe distance away—at least 10 feet—from power lines. As voltage increases, clearance distances also increase. Call National Grid for specific safety clearance requirements.
- **Designate a spotter** whose only job is to watch your equipment and make sure you maintain the mandatory safety clearances.

#### Dig safely

**Call 811 or make an online request well in advance of any digging job, no matter how small.** The 811 service will notify underground facility owners in the immediate area so the location of utility lines can be marked prior to excavation. Before you call, delineate your dig area with white paint, flags or stakes.

- **After you call, wait at least 72 hours before digging** in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and at least 48 hours in New York, excluding weekends and legal holidays.
- **Hand dig to verify marked lines.** Colored flags and paint marks show you the approximate location of utility lines but not how deep they are buried. Before you can safely work near a buried line, you must first hand dig to expose the line and verify its exact location and depth.
- **Respect the marks, and dig with care.** For your safety, do not use power digging equipment within two feet of either side of marked utility lines. Hand dig with a rounded shovel, using a gentle prying motion to break away soil as you approach the utility laterally.

#### Would you like to know more?

Additional overhead and digging guidelines, case studies, instructional videos and training tools can all be found, at no charge to you, on [National Grid's e-SMARTworkers](#) website.

Do you like this email series? Do you find the information helpful? We'd like to know. Please reply to this email and tell us what you think, or let us know what topics you'd like to see in future emails.

**For more contractor safety information, visit [ngridssafety.com](#).**



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

**Smell Gas. Act Fast.**

**Call 811 or enter an online request** at least 72 hours before digging in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and at least 48 hours in New York, excluding weekends and legal holidays:

- **MA & RI:** [digsafe.com](#)
- **Upstate NY:** [digsafelynewyork.com](#)
- **Metro NY, Long Island & the Rockaways:** [newyork-811.com](#)

Massachusetts contacts	New York contacts	Rhode Island contacts
Gas emergencies: 1-800-233-5325 or 911	Gas emergencies: Long Island and the Rockaways: 1-800-490-0045 or 911	Gas emergencies: 1-800-640-1595 or 911
Electric emergencies: 1-800-465-1212 or 911	Metro NY: 911 or 1-718-643-4050	Electric emergencies: 1-800-465-1212 or 911
	Upstate NY: 1-800-892-2345 or 911	
	Electric emergencies: 1-800-867-5222 or 911	