

Toolbox Talks

Weekly Tailgate Topic_

11-22

Discuss with crews on _____ [INSERT DATE]

You Could Damage Much More Than a Gas Line

Excavating is serious business. That's why it's critical to take due care. Knowing where natural gas pipelines are located before you start excavating is the first step to ensure safety on the job. Safety starts with a call to BC One Call to request underground gas line information. You ensure a safe work site by hand digging to expose the gas line before using mechanical equipment. Hitting a pipeline not only threatens the safety of the public and your workers, but can also impact the environment and cost you money. So take the necessary precautions, play it safe, and call before you dig.

Your Responsibilities

Whether you are digging up a major intersection or installing fence posts, BC regulations require you to take three steps before you start digging:

1. Call BC One Call and request line location information. The call is free.
If the activity as described on the underground pipeline location information request provided by BC One Call is:
 - Within two (2) metres or crossing the Intermediate Pressure pipeline(s) OR within a pipeline Right of Way, please call the Permit Desk at 604-576-7021 or 1-877-599-0996 to obtain a permit
 - Within ten(10) metres of the Intermediate Pressure pipeline(s) but is more than two (2) metres away from the Intermediate Pressure pipeline(s), please call the Public Underground Location Services Department at 1-888-822-6555 to request a physical locate.
 - Within forty (40) metres of the Intermediate Pressure pipeline(s) but is more than ten (10) metres away from the Intermediate Pressure pipeline(s), the activity is permitted to proceed.
2. Use the information to mark the location of buried gas lines.
3. Hand dig to expose the gas line.

Guidelines for Locating and Hand Digging

Before beginning any excavation or boring, you must locate the buried gas line and hand dig to expose the line. The BC Safety Authority has approved these guidelines for locating and hand digging.

You MUST:

- have gas line information on site
- identify the location of the gas line and mark the line with paint or stakes until digging is underway

- hand dig across the boundary limits of the locate area in cuts no more than 0.3 m deep

Do not use mechanical equipment to deepen the excavation past the hand dig area within the boundary limits.

When locating and exposing buried gas lines, the “no mechanized dig zone” refers to the area equal to the diameter of the gas pipe plus one metre on either side of the gas line’s indicated location extending upwards to the surface. Hand dig within “the zone” to expose the pipe, using manual equipment and tools. Mechanized equipment should not be used for any purpose other than to break the surface.

Safety Laws and Regulations

WorkSafeBC and the BC Safety Authority *require* you to obtain buried gas line location information and hand dig to expose the lines.

Line Location Assistance

You are responsible for contacting BC One Call and requesting line location information. However, FortisBC will provide on-site locates on gas pipelines and temporary surface marking or staking when:

- detailed records are not available
- the information on the plans or listing of facility locations is unclear or the gas installation is not where FortisBC records indicate
- there is an emergency repair of another utility in progress (e.g., damaged water main or sewer)
- the excavator has been unsuccessful in hand locating our main or service
- the planned excavation is within 40 m of a pipeline operating above 100 psi (690 kPa). See section on obtaining a FortisBC permit below.

All requests for location information must be submitted through BC One Call at **1-800-474-6886**, ***6886** on a cell phone, or faxed to **604-451-0344** a minimum of two business days prior to the scheduled start of an excavation.

If your project is delayed and your excavation work has not started within *10 working days* of receiving gas line information from FortisBC, you must verify the location information through BC One Call before beginning work.

Obtaining a FortisBC Gas Line Permit

You must have a permit from FortisBC for any activity or work when:

- crossing over or under or undertaking construction or excavation work within 40 metres of a pipeline operating above 100 psi (690 kPa)
- working within a FortisBC gas pipeline statutory right of way

CREW MEMBER SAFETY TOPIC