

# HOW 811 WORKS

811 is a national number created by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect homeowners and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. **811 is a free service.**

- **CALL 811 TWO FULL WORKING DAYS** (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.) before digging. In other words, call 811 no later than Wednesday if you plan to dig on the weekend.
- **ONLINE REQUESTS** for 811 services can be made at [usanorth811.org](http://usanorth811.org).
- **TELL THE 811 OPERATOR** where you plan to dig and the type of work you will be doing.
- **811 WILL NOTIFY** affected utility companies.
- **THE UTILITIES WILL SEND A LOCATOR** to mark the approximate location of your buried utility lines, pipes and cables, or notify you if the buried lines are clear (more than 24" from the area where you plan to dig).
- **PRE-MARK YOUR DIG AREA** in white (paint, flags, flour, etc.) to identify the appropriate area for the locator to mark.
- **THE LOCATORS WILL MARK** the approximate location of underground lines using the color codes below.
- **DIG SAFELY!**

## Color Code for Marking Excavation Sites & Underground Facilities

Proposed Excavation	Temporary Survey Markings
Electric	Gas, Oil, Steam Chemical
Communication Cable TV	Sewer
Reclaimed Water Irrigation Slurry	Water



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



### NORTHERN NEVADA

1150 E. William Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 684-6101  
Fax: (775) 684-6110

### SOUTHERN NEVADA

9075 W. Diablo Dr., Ste. 250  
Las Vegas, NV 89148  
Phone: (702) 486-7210  
Fax: (702) 486-7206



[puc.nv.gov](http://puc.nv.gov)



# Homeowner's Guide to Safe Digging in Nevada



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

It's free. It's easy. It's the law.



# SAFE DIGGING 101

Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause environmental damage, serious personal injury and disrupt service to an entire neighborhood.

## IF YOU DAMAGE A UTILITY LINE

Call 811 if you damage or make contact with a buried utility line. Call the affected utility if you know which type of line you damaged. If you break a natural gas line, move to a safe location, call 911 & your natural gas utility. Never attempt to control the gas flow or make repairs to a gas line, or any utility line, if damage occurs.

## SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Dig slowly/carefully with hand tools (i.e. shovel) when digging within 24" of utility marks to ensure adequate clearance & confirm the buried utility's location.
- Never plant trees or other objects directly above buried utility lines.
- Be careful when driving stakes into the ground for tree or concrete supports to avoid buried utilities.
- Contact the utility for instructions & questions regarding digging around a utility line.

## GAS LINES

- Gas main piping may be found in the street, parkway, or right of way.
- A utility locator will use yellow paint to mark where the gas line runs underground from the street to the meter on a house, usually located on the side of the garage.
- The homeowner is responsible for knowing the location of gas lines that run from the home's meter to other structures on the property, such as to a BBQ or pool equipment.

## ELECTRIC LINES

- Main electric lines are generally buried in conduit under or behind the sidewalk in a utility easement.
- A utility locator will use red paint to mark where the electric cable runs underground from the sidewalk area to the meter on a house, usually located on the side of the garage.
- The homeowner is responsible for knowing the location of electric lines that run from the meter to other structures on the property.

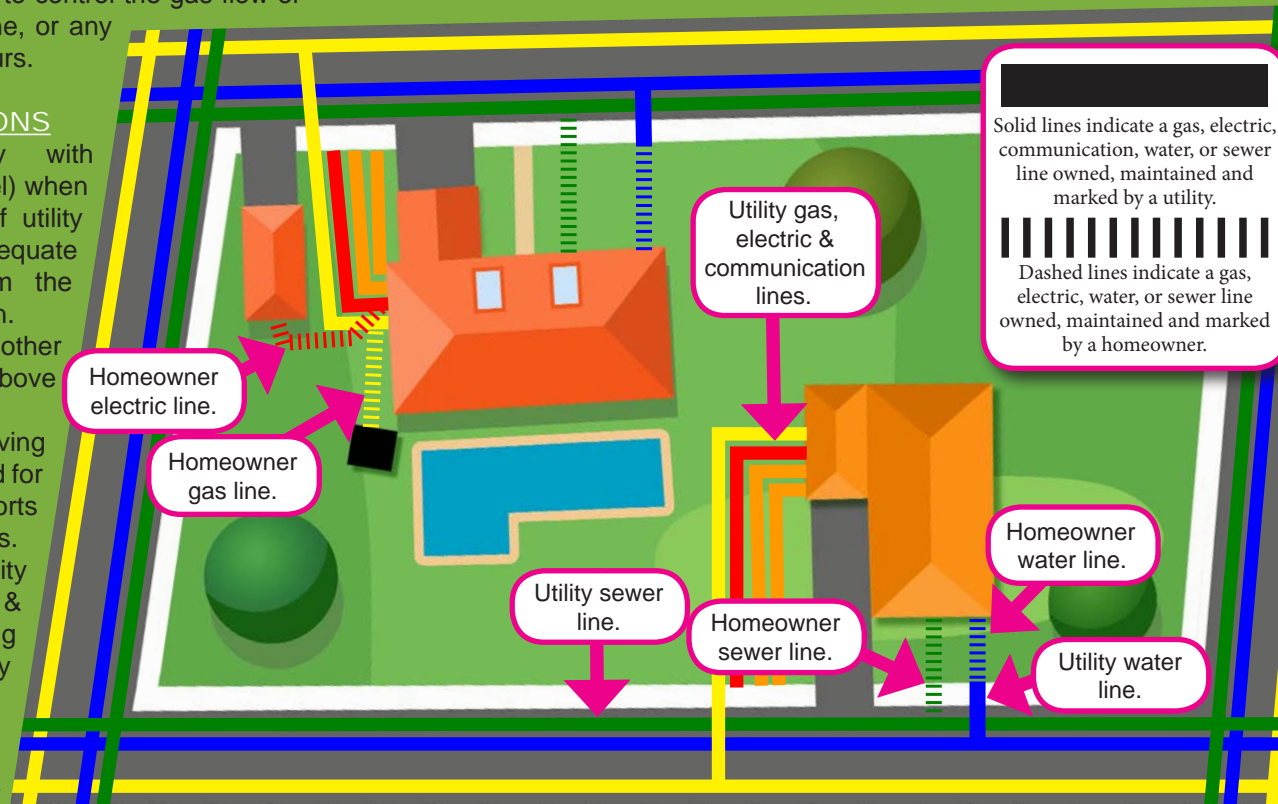
## WATER LINES

- Main water lines are generally buried under the street.
- A utility locator will use blue paint to mark where the water line runs from the main in the street to a residential or commercial meter box, which is usually located in or behind the sidewalk, in the front and usually on the side property line of the home.
- Water lines are homeowner and/or business owner-owned from the meter box to the

home or business. It is the homeowner and/or business owner's responsibility to know the water line's location on his property.

## SEWER LINES

- Main sewer lines generally run under the street & connect to a home through a line running from the main to the center, front of the home.
- Sewer lines are homeowner-owned from the main to the home. It's the homeowner's responsibility to know the sewer line's location on his property.
- A utility locator may paint a green "T" in the street to indicate where the home's line connects to the main line.
- A utility locator may paint a green triangle to indicate that sewer lateral lines may exist in the area of the dig, but the triangle is not a designation of the lateral's location.



## COMMUNICATION LINES (PHONE/CABLE)

- Main communication lines are generally buried under the sidewalk.
- A utility locator will use orange paint to mark where the communication lines run underground from the sidewalk to a house, usually to the side of the garage.

- A utility locator may paint a green "S" on the curb to indicate the sewer line is located in that approximate spot.

**If you don't call 811 prior to digging and hit an underground utility line, you could potentially incur fines and be responsible for repair costs!**