

Safety Bulletin

Underground Utilities

DTE Energy®



Before you dig *call* **MISS DIG!**

Fence or sprinkler installation, landscaping, construction... whatever takes you underground, remember, it only takes moments to come in dangerous contact with buried utility lines.

Find out where power lines, gas lines, and other buried utilities are located before you excavate. State law requires that you call MISS DIG at least three full workdays in advance. A simple phone call to **1.800.482.7171** is all it takes.

MISS DIG will contact the utilities that serve the area. At no charge to you, the utilities will mark the approximate locations of their underground lines. Once the marker flags are in place, hand dig to determine the exact location before beginning your excavation.

Power line contact

What should you do if heavy equipment, like a backhoe, hits an underground power line? If you can do it safely, try to drive the equipment out of the hazard. If you cannot, stay put and wait for help. Immediately call 911, then Detroit Edison at **1.800.477.4747** to report the situation.

If you must exit the equipment because of fire or other danger, remember that your body should never contact the ground and the metal equipment at the same time. Jump clear, then hop with feet together or shuffle away. Voltage is highest near the equipment and decreases with distance. Hopping with feet together or shuffling prevents your body from becoming a conductor from an area of higher voltage to an area of lower voltage.

Note: Always follow all applicable industry safety laws and rules in addition to these tips.

Gas pipeline contact

If your equipment contacts a gas pipeline, the line may not show any visible damage; however, always call the local gas utility immediately. Not all pipeline damage is visible. If MichCon is the local gas utility, call **1.800.363.9541**.

Be prepared to identify the signs of a gas pipeline leak which include:

- A blowing or hissing sound
- Dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas
- An odor similar to the smell of rotten eggs
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Abnormally dry or hardened soil
- Flames, if a leak has ignited

If a pipeline leak or emergency occurs:

- Immediately call MichCon at **1.800.363.9541** or the local gas utility from a phone away from the area.
- Evacuate occupants from the building and/or area. Do not operate any telephones (including cell phones), doorbells, light switches or electrical equipment.
- Avoid all open flames. Do not smoke.
- Do not start up or shut down any machinery, vehicles or equipment in or near the area.
- Keep people at a safe distance from the area.
- If the gas is burning – let it. Do not attempt to extinguish the flame. Burning gas will not explode.