



Staying Safe Around Power Lines



What is 811? Why do I need to call before digging?

811 is the national Call-Before-You-Dig phone number. There may be utility lines or other infrastructure buried just inches below the ground.

Any digging jobs regardless of size, from planting a small tree to a construction project, require calling 811 before starting the job. Striking a single underground utility can result in significant injuries or damages to you, the nearby public, and inconvenient outages. Call 811 at least two working days before you dig.

What should I do if I spot a downed wire?

If you see a downed power wire, stay clear of it, and call 911 immediately to report an electrical emergency. All downed lines should be treated as dangerous. Never touch a downed power line or go near one.

What should I do if I see a person, animal, or object that is in contact with a downed power line?

Do not touch the person, animal, or object because the power line may still be energized. Call 911 immediately.

What should I do if I need to do outside work near an overhead power line?

If your outside work requires you to be near an overhead power line, always remember to keep everything – and everybody – at least 10 feet away from the power line. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your local utility company before starting any work.

What if a power line falls on and/or touches my vehicle while I am still in it?

Remain calm and stay in your car, as the ground around your car may be energized. Call 911 on your cell phone or tell someone to call for you. Tell everyone to stay clear and do not touch the vehicle.

If there is a fire and you must exit your vehicle that has come in contact with a downed power line, remove loose items of clothing, keep your hands at your sides, and jump clear of the vehicle so you are not touching the vehicle when your feet hit the ground. Keep both feet close together and shuffle away from the vehicle without picking up your feet. A power line carries electricity, which can be dangerous and cause serious injury or even death if you meet it.

