



Work safely around Wisconsin Public Service utilities



Your safety is important to us.

We work hard to deliver safe, reliable electric and natural gas service to our customers, and we want you to be safe while working near our above- or below-ground facilities. We construct, operate, maintain and inspect our natural gas system in accordance with state and federal pipeline safety regulations. If a potential problem is discovered, our crews respond and resolve the problem, following current industry standards and best practices.

In addition to following proper excavating practices, there are **two main rules contractors and excavators should always keep in mind while working near electric and natural gas lines:**

1. Look up and look out.

Whether you operate heavy equipment or use ladders and hand-held tools, when you work outside, you work around power lines. Remember to always look up and look out. Assume all overhead lines are energized and dangerous – including the service drops that run from utility poles to buildings.

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) law requires that you work at least 20 feet from any overhead electric line unless requirements of OSHA regulations CFR1926.1408 are met. If you must work closer than 10 feet, contact us in advance of performing any work so safety arrangements can be made.

2. Call or click before you dig.

To prevent a hazardous situation while digging, contact Diggers Hotline at 811 or 800-242-8511 at least three business days before you plan to dig.

Representatives will mark utility-owned underground facilities for free within three working days. Locate requests for emergency purposes will be expedited. We may not be the only pipeline operator in an area. To find out which pipeline operators have transmission facilities in an area, visit the National Pipeline Mapping System website at npms.phmsa.dot.gov.

call811.com



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

Following these simple rules will help you avoid potentially dangerous situations and expensive mistakes.

Marking WPS facilities

We mark our facilities with paint, flags or stakes. Facilities greater than 2 inches in diameter are labeled as such. Remember to adjust your tolerance zone to accommodate the increased size of the facility. When we can't place markers directly over buried facilities, arrows and numbers on a stake or on the ground mark the distance and direction to the buried facilities.

Yellow = natural gas facilities

Red = electric facilities

Clear = no buried facilities

If there are no WPS facilities present, you should find a clear flag(s) with a ticket number written on it. If you do not see

either marks or a clear flag, call for a relocate. Also call for a relocate when you see:

- Any indication that new facilities have been buried since your original locate request (i.e. new flags, ground disturbance, new meter set, etc.).
- Yellow or red marker posts – indicating natural gas and electric facilities are in the area. These posts are not placed on the exact location of the facility. Never rely on them for excavating purposes.



If you have questions about the marks or locates, contact our locators directly. The locating company name and phone number are on the solid-color flags.

Unmarked facilities

If you discover an unmarked or apparently mismarked facility, contact us immediately. Never assume an unmarked facility is abandoned. Treat all facilities as though they are live. Only WPS personnel have the tools and skills to safely differentiate live versus abandoned facilities.



Damaged facilities

If you damage or observe damage to our facilities, stop work and contact us at:

Electric facility damage: **800-450-7240**

Natural gas facility damage: **800-450-7280**

If someone is injured due to damaged electric or natural gas facilities or the damage causes natural gas to be released, call 911 immediately, then contact WPS.

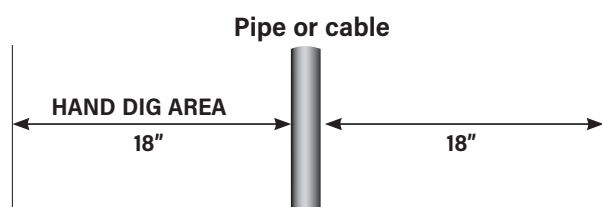
Buried facilities

Use the clearance guidelines below when working around buried facilities. Keep in mind: Existing grades can change, and the current depth of an electric or natural gas line may be different than when originally installed.

Wisconsin digging clearance requirements

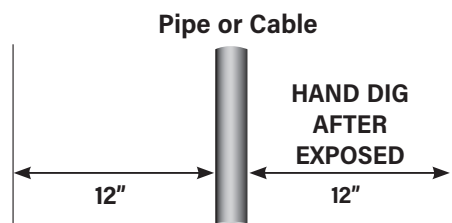
Unexposed facilities

Hand digging must be performed when working within 18 inches from each side of a buried facility.



Exposed facilities

After facilities have been exposed by hand, power digging equipment may be used up to 12 inches away, but please exercise caution to avoid facility damage.



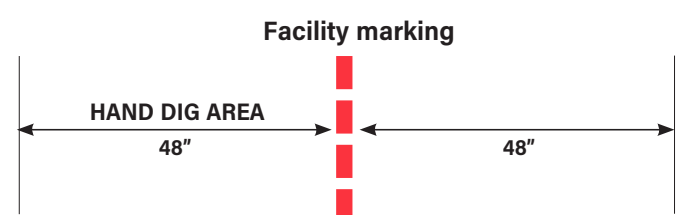
Trenchless technology (boring, directional drilling)

Always expose facilities to verify their depth and location when using trenchless technology.

Michigan digging clearance requirements

Unexposed facilities

Hand digging must be performed when working within 48 inches of either side of facility markings.



Exposed facilities

After facilities have been exposed by hand and exact facility location is established, power digging equipment may be used to complete excavation. Please exercise caution to avoid facility damage.

Trenchless technology (boring, directional drilling)

Always expose facilities to verify their depth and location when using trenchless technology.

Natural gas pipeline safety

Natural gas and the underground pipeline distribution systems that carry it have outstanding safety records. The distribution systems are regularly surveyed and problems rarely occur. To perform mandated pipeline safety inspections, we must have clear access to the pipeline right of way. The areas on either side of the pipeline must be kept clear of debris, trees, sheds and other structures.

Natural gas will not burn by itself. However, if mixed with the right amount of air, natural gas can ignite. Natural gas is nontoxic, but in an enclosed area, it may displace oxygen in the air, which can lead to suffocation.

Contact us immediately at 800-450-7280 if you:

- Smell the strong odor of natural gas, similar to rotten eggs.
- Hear a hissing, whistling or roaring sound.
- See dirt or debris blowing into the air.

Go to www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/contractorsafety for more safety information.