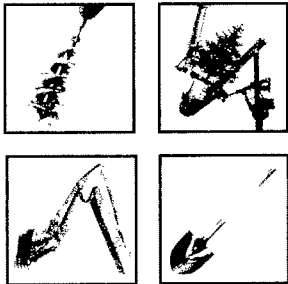


# CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



AN IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE  
FOR HOMEOWNERS



ALBERTA **1** CALL™

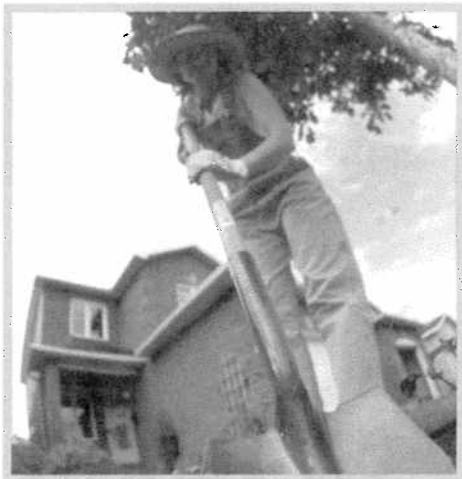
1-800-242-3447



Every year homeowners in Alberta damage buried facilities during ground disturbance activities on their property. Some damages have resulted in fatalities. Most are preventable.

Your property is probably serviced with connections to all or some of the sewer, water, natural gas, electricity, telephone and cable television utilities. Some may be overhead and visible. Most, however, are underground and not visible. Some buried facilities are owned by the utilities. Others we own as homeowners.

Any time we disturb the ground, we run the risk of hitting and damaging these facilities, and perhaps injuring ourselves, or our families or neighbours. Before we disturb the ground, we need to plan our activities and find out what buried facilities may be under our property and where they are.



**Disturbing the ground** means any activity that results in the removal or penetration of the earth. It includes homeowner activities such as tree planting, digging or augering holes for fence posts, driving in anchors for swing sets or landscape ties, digging or augering holes for deck support posts, digging up or rototilling a new flower or vegetable garden, changing the contour of the ground surface, excavating for garage pads, retaining walls, patios or sidewalks and trenching for underground sprinkler systems, invisible fence systems and electrical, natural gas or telephone lines between buildings.

**Distribution and collection systems** are those parts of the utilities that are installed in the road allowance or in utility rights of way. The utilities own, operate and maintain these lines and will identify and mark their locations on request.

**Service connections** are those parts of the utility systems that connect our residences to the distribution and collection systems. Some, like electric and natural gas, terminate at meters. Others, like telephone and cable television, terminate at a box which is either on the outside wall of the house or inside the basement wall. Some residential lots are serviced from the front, others from the rear.

With the exception of sewer and water services, the utilities will generally identify and mark the locations of service connections from the distribution mains to the meter or terminal box. On specific request the water utility will usually identify and mark the "curb stop", a valve that is on the water service line, usually at the property line. The sewer utility generally will not identify and mark the sewer service. In most situations, the sewer service is parallel to and fairly close to the water service.

**Call toll free  
1-800-242-3447**

**Utility rights of way** are strips of land across our properties, registered as a covenant against the land title, usually in favour of the municipality. More and more frequently, the distribution components of the shallow utilities (natural gas, electric, telephone and cable television) are installed in these rights of way. There will be terms and conditions associated with a utility right of way that will restrict the landowner's use of the land.

**Customer owned buried facilities** include natural gas, electric, telephone and cable television pipes and cables that run from the main building to other buildings such as garages. If your garage has electric power, you own the cable from the main electrical panel to the garage. The electric utility did not install it, has no record of its existence or location and will not locate it for you. You own the sewer and water service connections from your property line to the building. The municipality does not own them and will not locate them. Other examples of customer owned buried facilities include yard lights, gas lamps, underground lawn sprinkler systems and invisible fences.

As the owner of these buried facilities it is your responsibility to identify them and mark their locations before you disturb the ground. A contractor working for you may require that you identify and mark their locations before he starts to work. This may involve your hiring a contract locator.

For the prevention of future damage and your safety, any time a customer owned buried facility is installed on your property, you should make a sketch of where it is in relation to buildings, fence lines and permanent sidewalks. Such sketches should be kept as part of your property file. If a contractor is installing customer owned buried facilities for you, you should require the contractor to provide you with a sketch of where the facility is.

**Call Before You Dig!** If you plan to disturb the ground, find out where the buried facilities on your property that are owned by the utilities are as part of your project planning process. If, for example, you are planning to build a fence, the presence of buried facilities may dictate where posts cannot be installed, which may affect the design of the fence, including the location of gates.

Most utilities are registered with Alberta One-Call, but some are not. Those that are not, you will have to contact directly to have their buried facilities identified and marked.

Contact Alberta One-Call at least 2 full working days before you plan to disturb the ground by any one of the following methods:

- over the internet at [www.alberta1call.com](http://www.alberta1call.com)
- by fax at 1-800-940-3447
- by phone 1-800-242-3447

If you wish to use the fax option, you will need to use the proper forms, which can be faxed to you directly by phoning 1-800-242-3447 and following the instructions.

The information Alberta One-Call requires to process your locate request includes:

- a telephone number where you can be reached during the day;
- your name;
- the address where the ground disturbance is to take place;
- the type of work you will be doing;
- the approximate depth of the proposed ground disturbance;
- whether the work will be on public property or private property or both;
- the date you need the locates by.

Alberta One-Call will provide you with a “Ticket Number”, which you should keep for future reference and a list of Alberta One-Call’s members that will be notified on your behalf. There is no charge to you for this service.

You should expect the locates to be completed within 2 full working days of when you placed the locate request. Locators will leave documentation of the locates for you, which explains the meaning of the marks, provides information on how to contact the utilities should you need to and any additional instructions related to the buried facilities that have been located.

If the locates have not been completed within 2 full working days of the date you placed the locate request and you have not been contacted by the utilities or their locators, please contact Alberta One-Call at 1-800-242-3477 with the Ticket Number.

If your ground disturbance will be within 1 metre of the locate marks (5 metres for high pressure pipelines), you must very carefully expose the buried facility first, using hand tools, to determine exactly where the buried facility is. The locate marks only show the approximate location of the buried facilities. For your safety and for the protection of the buried facilities it is best to keep your ground disturbance at least 1 metre (5 metres for high pressure pipelines) away from the marks.

You do not want to damage buried facilities and the utilities do not want their buried facilities damaged. Your awareness and understanding of the risks involved in disturbing the ground and following the correct procedures for disturbing the ground and working near buried facilities will reduce the chances of your damaging a buried facility.

**Call Before You Dig** to find out where the buried facilities are and Dig Safely to protect yourself and the buried facilities. It could save you money in the long run. It could even save your life.



[www.alberta1call.com](http://www.alberta1call.com)