



## APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

*Remember these safe digging tips.*

CASPER, WY. – April 15, 2020 — April is National Safe Digging Month, and during a time when our minds are on the current challenges facing our nation, Black Hills Energy is providing this safety reminder to emphasize the importance of safe digging.

In addition to warmer temperatures, spring brings with it home improvement and outside projects, and increased construction activity. With many of us spending more time at home, we may find even more time for installing that new mailbox, planting landscaping, or repairing a fence or deck. Here are some tips to remember:

1. **Call or Click Before You Dig.** Whether you're a homeowner planting a shrub or a contractor using a backhoe, always "Call Before You Dig" at least 48 hours in advance to have utility lines marked. You can call 811 toll-free, schedule online at <http://www.onecallofwyoming.com>. It's free, it's safe and it's the law.

After you call, utility specialists will respond within two days to mark the approximate location of buried utility lines at your site with color-coded paint or flags – at no charge to you. Yellow, for example, marks gas lines and red marks electric lines.

2. **Mark Your Planned Excavation Site.** Spray paint a white line, or place white flags, around your planned excavation site before you call. "White-lining" helps the line locator understand your plans and reduces the chance for project delays if the line locator has to return to mark additional areas.
3. **Respect the Marks.** Always carefully hand-dig with a shovel near any utility facilities as opposed to using heavy equipment. Use extreme care around all utility lines. Just a nick can create a weak spot that may develop into a gas leak, cause an electrical or internet outage or result in injury.
4. **Don't Rely on Old Line Locate Marks.** Project delays? If you don't dig within 14 business days of having lines marked, contact Wyoming's 811 again. At no charge, line locators will gladly return to re-mark the lines as quickly as possible. Underground conditions can change, so never rely on outdated information.

"Public safety, the welfare of excavator work crews, and the safety of our employees are our primary concerns," said Jesse Henderson, Damage Prevention Coordinator for Black Hills Energy in Wyoming. "Whether your project is big or small, safe digging practices are critical to avoiding an incident that could become a tragedy."

In this time of social distancing, Black Hills Energy recommends that you consider postponing home improvement projects that require digging to allow utility locating resources to be reserved for required and essential services.

Failure to comply with Call Before You Dig laws, can result in civil penalties or the cost of expensive repairs to utilities and private property. More importantly, remember that hitting an underground utility line can cause widespread service outages, injury or death.

### *For Gas*

If a natural gas line is damaged accidentally or you smell the distinctive rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas, leave the area and then call 911 or the Black Hills Energy 24-hour emergency phone line at 800-890-5554. Do not operate any machinery or equipment that might cause a spark or create an open flame.

### *For Electric*

In addition to underground line safety, the public should also be aware of potential shock hazards associated with electrical distribution equipment. It is important to follow safety signs, keep away from electrical transmission and distribution power lines, look up when working near lines, and call 811 before digging.

Visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or <http://www.onecallofwyoming.com/> for more information about 811 and safe digging practices, and like the Black Hills Energy Facebook page to learn how you can enter the Black Hills Energy Safe Digging Month sweepstakes giveaway beginning April 20, 2020.

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**About Black Hills Energy**

Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) is a customer focused, growth-oriented utility company with a tradition of improving life with energy and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. Based in Rapid City, South Dakota, the company serves 1.3 million natural gas and electric utility customers in eight states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com) and [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).