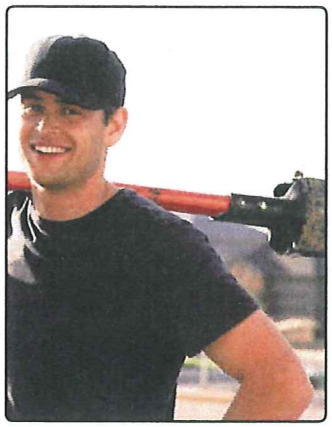
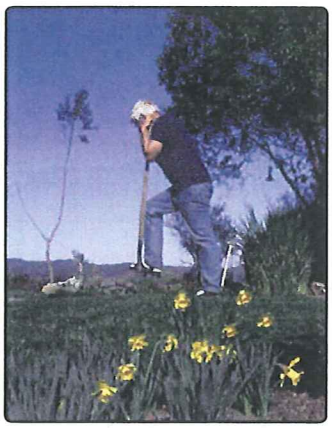
Public Safety

Know What's Below

Call 811 Before You Dig

Did you know that a simple job like planting a tree in your yard can jeopardize your safety? Many energized power and utility lines are buried just a few feet under the ground. Digging, trenching or excavating without knowing where utility lines are buried could be costly ... and fatal. Before you dig, protect yourself and call 811 to have the area marked for utility lines.

One Call Does it All

811 is the nationwide number to call before you begin any digging project. By calling 811, you will be routed to the underground locating service in your state, who will notify the appropriate utilities in your area. In some areas 811 may not work, and in these cases, please continue to use 800-752-6007.

Please remember, it is the responsibility of the property owner to locate any privately-owned utility lines on the property using a licensed electrical contractor.

Allow the Appropriate Time

Planning is essential for safe digging, especially because you must call AT LEAST 48 hours before you plan to dig. After calling 811, utilities have at least 48 hours to come out and mark their lines with a color-coded paint or flagging system.

- Red indicates electric power lines, conduit and cables.
- Yellow represents gas, oil, petroleum or gaseous materials.
- Orange is used for communication, alarm or signal lines.
- Blue is the color used to indicate potable water.
- Purple is reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines.
- Green is the color for sewers and drain lines.
- Pink is used to indicate temporary survey markings.
- White is used before the locating services to mark the proposed excavating site.

Respect the Marks

Marking underground utility lines is the way operators show the approximate location of their facilities. Remember, marks may be in paint, flags or both. There also may be marks that designate an "all clear," meaning there are no buried facilities.

If you notice faded or missing marks, you should call 811 with your reference number and request a remark. Requesting a remark DOES require an additional 48-hour notice for the utility.

The marks may be confusing, but don't guess at the meaning. If you have any questions, you should contact the utility directly.

Excavate Carefully

You must excavate carefully, especially in the tolerance zone. The tolerance zone is a horizontal area, measured from the marks, where the underground facility is located.

In Kentucky, the tolerance zone must be an area equal to the width of the underground facility, plus 18 inches on each side. If no width is given by the utility for its facility, assume two inches.

Safety DVD Available

Visit www.kentuckypower.com/go/811 to view or order a video clip on the call before you dig process.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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