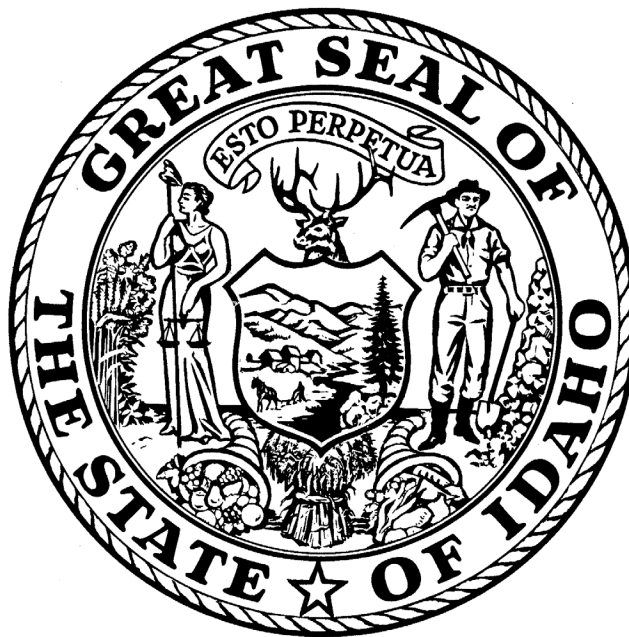


# Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses Damage Prevention



## Idaho's Guide to Safe Digging



## **Websites**

**Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses - Damage Prevention -**  
dopl.idaho.gov

**Digline** - www.digline.com

**North Idaho Pelican** - www.nid811.com

**Kootenai County One Call** - www.kootenaicounty811.com

**Common Ground Alliance** -  
www.commongroundalliance.com

**811** - http://call811.com

**PHMSA** - www.phmsa.dot.gov

### **Statutes**

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title55/T55CH22/>

### **Rules**

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/24/243990.pdf>

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## Statement of Purpose

The 2016 Idaho Legislature created the Idaho Damage Prevention Board for the purposes of:

- Creating stakeholder-driven education and enforcement addressing the prevention of damage to underground facilities.
- Collecting, storing, analyzing, and disseminating data related to underground facility damage.
- Protecting the public health and safety from great personal harm including death, property damage and interruption of vital services caused by damage to existing underground facilities.

The role of the Damage Prevention Board is to promote safe excavation practices to all parties involved in moving the earth in and around underground utility facilities.

By statute, the Idaho Damage Prevention Board may provide educational tools available to the excavating community to better accommodate safe practices and compliance with Idaho Code, Title 55, Chapter 22.

The Idaho Damage Prevention Board will also investigate, determine, violations and enforce compliance of said code. The complaint process will allow all stakeholders an opportunity to present a violation to the Board to ensure compliance of Idaho Code.

Call 811 (Before You Dig) is the primary method to prevent damages. This service is provided **free** to the excavating community. Everyone who digs is considered an excavator, and subject to the requirements. Calling 811 first, waiting the required time for facility owners to mark their facilities, respect the marks once down, then digging with care to avoid the utility lines will ensure everyone will go home at night and vital services continue.

# Guidelines for Safe Excavation

Pre-mark, with white paint, the entire area you are planning to dig. This will show the locators the affected facilities that need marked.

1. Call 811. The one call center will contact all member facility owners with service lines on the proposed excavation site.
2. Wait 2 full business days, a business day is defined in §55-2202, section 3.
3. Do not dig until all known facilities are located. This may mean you have to request a 2nd locate if a facility owner fails to mark their service lines.
4. Maintain the markings. It is up to you to make sure the markings stay visible and intact.
5. Hand dig when within twenty-four (24) inches of underground facility.
6. Call for an updated locate after twenty-one (21) days of first locate.

## Safety Digging Around Utility Lines

The following suggested guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive or exclusive of local requirements.

For all suggestions or recommendations listed below, the facility owner may have differing requirements.

### **NATURAL GAS**

Always call the local gas utility immediately to report any damage, leaks or any other natural gas incident. If gas is leaking, evacuate immediate areas where gas is present. Keep people and traffic away and remove any sources of ignition (open flames, turn off engines/ equipment, radius, etc.) around the area of the damaged line until the local utility arrives. If concerned with public safety always call 911 first. **DON'T** try to repair a damaged or broken natural gas line by covering, crimping, bending or otherwise restricting the flow. Don't touch a plastic pipe that is leaking. A spark from static electricity on plastic pipe could become an ignition source. All repairs must be made by the local natural gas provider. *Any time pipe is dented, or the wrap is scraped the local natural gas provider will need to inspect it before it is buried or covered with fill.* Even if the pipe is just nicked or bent, leave it exposed so the local natural gas provider can inspect it and make any necessary repairs. Care should be taken to avoid breaking the small wires located on or near natural gas pipelines. Companies with buried pipelines use different types of wires, some are for locating plastic pipelines and others are necessary to monitor steel pipelines for proper protection from corrosion. If the wire is broken, call the local utility so repairs can be made to damaged facilities

*If the Natural Gas is burning **let it burn.** Extinguishing a gas flame without stopping the gas flow can increase the danger. If there is a threat to life or property call 911.*

### **ELECTRICITY**

Electricity can shock, burn, or kill workers if it is not handled properly on the job site. Since it is always seeking the easiest path to ground, you or any other type of conductor (metal, wet wood, trees, machinery/equipment, tools, etc.) touching a power line could provide an immediate path to ground. The result can be severe injury

Digging trenches or excavating in areas where there might be under- ground power lines can be dangerous and expensive. One misplaced shovel or bucket could cause serious injury, knock out services, or damage surrounding homes and businesses.

### **WATER, SEWER & STORM LINES**

Pressurized water lines are often used to provide drinking water, fire protection, and irrigation, and if damaged during construction, can cause significant loss of service, property damage, and injury. Sanitary sewer lines are primarily used to dispose of human, industrial and commercial waste that can contain fecal matter, chemicals, gases, and blood borne pathogens. If damaged during construction, sanitary sewer lines can cause significant loss of service, costly property or wildlife damage, and injury. When working in any area where sewer is nearby, make sure the manhole lids remain accessible in case of an emergency back up or damage occurs.

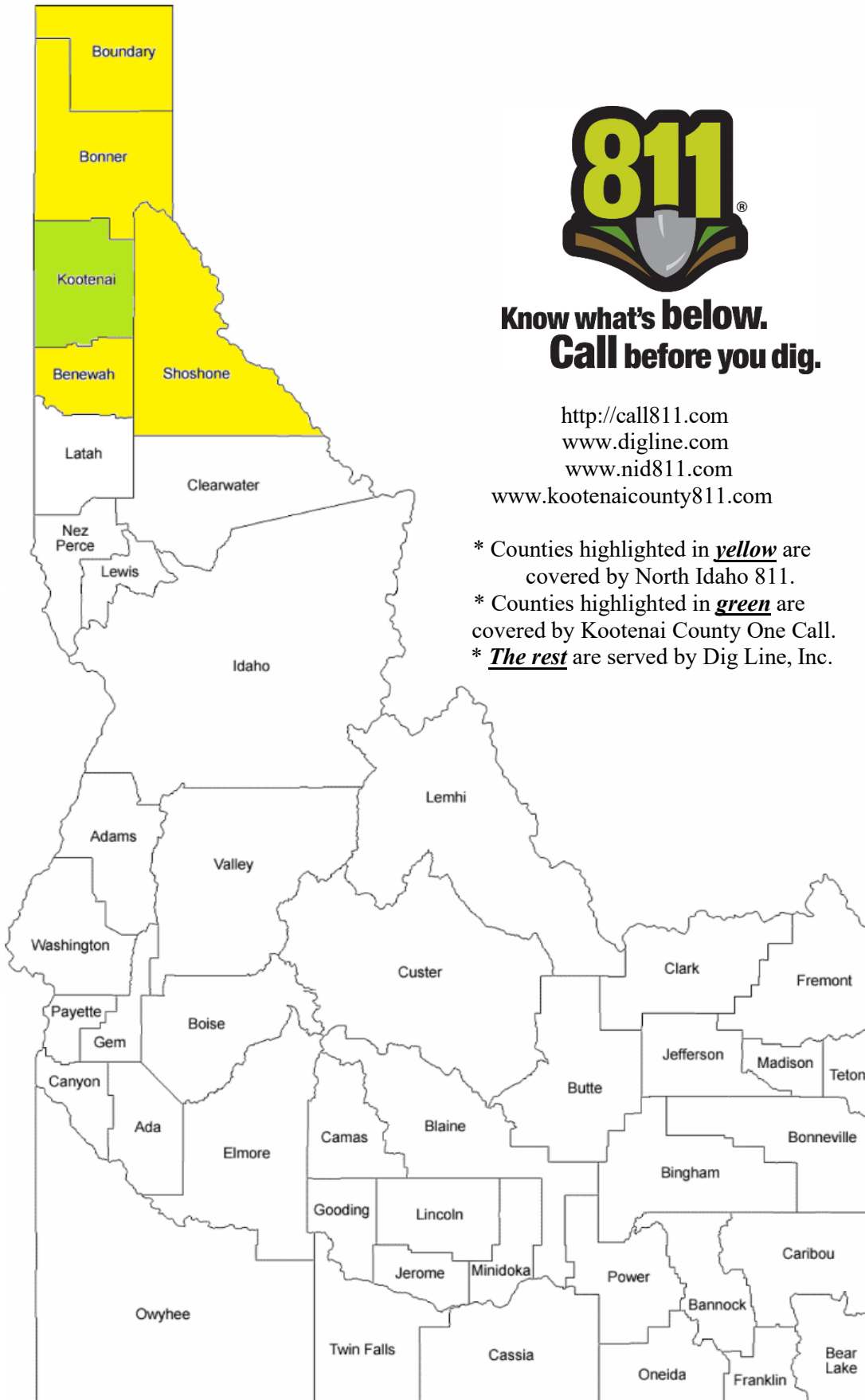
### **COMMUNICATIONS COPPER & FIBEROPTIC LINES**

Communications & Fiber optic lines are used by a variety of organizations for telephone calls and efficient transfer of large volumes of information. They can be very costly and time consuming to repair with additional monetary penalties related to temporary loss of provided services. Do not look into the end of a fiber optic line or serious damage or loss of sight can occur. Fiber optic shards are dangerous and undetectable by any means if they enter the body. When the phone rings, a series of high voltage AC (up to 100 volts) surges come through the lines. Always verify if communications copper and or fiber optic lines are listed on your locate.

## **Private Property**

Facility owners will only locate the lines they own and maintain. For private service lines you will need to call a private line locator. Under- ground lines that extend beyond the meter or that are not connected to a meter are typically not installed or owned by the facility owner and may not be located unless you call for a private locate. These may include water and sewage laterals, power to a detached garage, outbuilding, barn, lamp post, sprinkler irrigation systems (pivots) or lines connected to a propane tank or septic system, etc.

To find information on Idaho's private line locators please visit:  
<http://www.digline.com/homeowners/private-lines-public/>



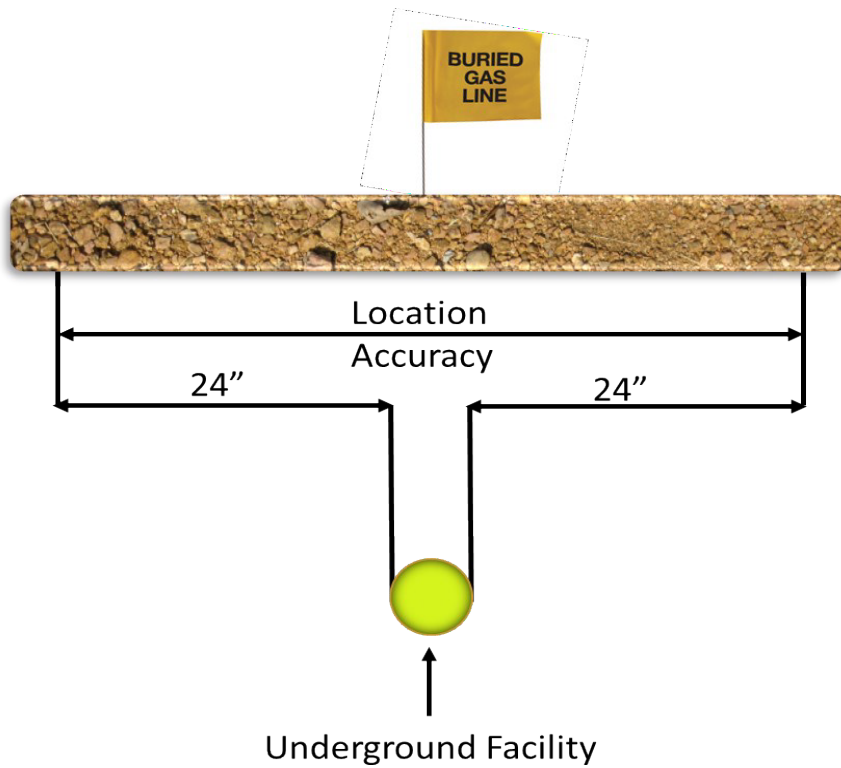
**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

<http://call811.com>  
[www.digline.com](http://www.digline.com)  
[www.nid811.com](http://www.nid811.com)  
[www.kootenaicounty811.com](http://www.kootenaicounty811.com)

- \* Counties highlighted in **yellow** are covered by North Idaho 811.
- \* Counties highlighted in **green** are covered by Kootenai County One Call.
- \* **The rest** are served by Dig Line, Inc.

# Reasonable Accuracy

As stated in 55-2202 (15) Idaho Statutes, “reasonable accuracy” or “reasonably accurate” means location within twenty-four (24) inches horizontally of the outside dimensions of each side of an underground facility.

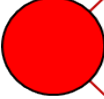






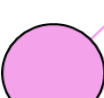




# APWA

## (AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION COLOR CODE)

Color-coded surface marks indicate the locations of buried utility lines.

	Electric power lines, cables, conduit, and lighting cables
	Telecommunication, alarm or signal, cables or conduit
	Natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum
	Sewers and drain lines
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
	Proposed excavation
	Survey marks

