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Mark Out Safety

In New Jersey, it's illegal to dig anywhere in the state without first calling for a mark out. Calling NJ1Call at 811 or 1-800-272-1000 gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from potential injury and unnecessary expense. Contact the NJ One Call Center seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day, any day of the year. Anyone planning to dig or grade, including homeowners, utility companies, public works departments, and contractors, need to call. Some examples of when you should call before you dig:

- Excavation
- Demolition
- Road Milling and Paving
- Driveways
- Drainage
- Roadway Signs
- Utility
- Planting a Tree
- Mailbox Installation
- Fencing and Dog Fence
- Sewer or Water
- Sidewalks, Curbs
- Moving Dirt
- Pest Control
- Sprinkler
- Stump Removal

Before contacting the NJ One Call Center, be sure to have the following information about the site available:

- County
- Municipality
- Address
- Type of Work
- Extent of Work
- Nearest Intersection
- Other Intersection
- White Painted Area
- Who are you working for
- Excavator or Homeowners Info

If you don't call, you do not know what is underground, which places life, health, and property at risk. Additionally, you are in violation of state and federal law subject to civil and criminal penalties and you will be held **100%** liable for damages and lost revenue to damaged facilities.

All excavators must have their own mark out request and must provide the physical location of the dig site – not just the postal address. Call three (3) business days ahead, but not more than ten (10) business days. Excavators must verify their location, dig date, and have a copy of their request ticket on site. Excavation must begin within ten (10) business days or the request ticket is no longer valid. You must hand dig within twenty-four (24) inches of marks before the operation of any mechanized equipment.

If an excavator causes or discovers any damage to pipes carrying natural gas, liquid petroleum, or any hazardous liquid: Call 911 and report the damage to the underground facility operator and Call 811 or 1-800-272-1000.

If an electrical facility is exposed or damaged, immediately call the facility operator and NJ1Call, and stop work. With electrocution possible, warn all persons the ground and any object near the dig area of the hazard, and the excavation operator should remain on the excavating equipment. Do not touch the excavating equipment, structures or materials near the point of contact. Do not resume work or evacuate excavating equipment until the facility operator has deemed the area safe. If immediate evacuation from the excavating equipment is required – jump, do not step, clear of the equipment and land on both feet. Move a safe distance away (+25 feet) using short hops or shuffling steps- do not take normal walking steps.

This bulletin is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.