Call Before You Dig

Please, don’t wait until the last minute. No matter if your excavation job is large or small, do the safe thing. Call USA North 2 working days to 14 calendar days before you dig in California and Nevada. Your location request number (USA North ticket) is good for 28-calendar days in California and Nevada from the date of issuance of the ticket. If your work will continue past 28-calendar days in California or Nevada, please call USA North and extend your location request ticket. You may extend your USA North ticket the last 6 calendar days of the life of the ticket.

Safety Awareness

Please join USA North and its members and make our community a safe place to live and work! So whatever you do, do it safe, but call before you dig.
Legislation: California Government Code 4216, Nevada Revised Statues NRS 455 make it mandatory for those excavating to call the One Call Center (USA North) at least 2 working days but not more than 14 calendar days before you dig. Failure to do so can result in a fine and/or the cost of any damages. In addition there could be liability for third party damages.

USA North provides a free and effective Damage Prevention Service that protects our citizens, our communities, our environment, our essential public services, and our underground facilities in Central / Northern California and all of Nevada. Our purpose is to receive planned excavation (disturbing the ground in any way) reports that will begin within the next 2 working days to 14 calendar days in California and Nevada, from homeowners, excavators, or professional contractors, and transmit those planned excavation reports to all participating members of USA North who may have underground facilities at that excavation site. The members notified of your excavation by USA North will mark, or stake the horizontal path of their facility with the appropriate color code, provide you information about the location of their facility, or advise of clearance (please see Step 3 of the “5 Steps to a Safe Excavation” for further details).

Requirements

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Call 811 or 1-800-227-2600

Know what’s below. Call before you dig.

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Survey and Mark:
Survey your proposed excavation site. Make a list of affected operators of underground facilities (operators) at your job site, their needs, and requirements. Mark the excavation site on paved surfaces with white spray chalk, water base, UV paint or equivalent less permanent type marking; use flags, stakes, whiskers, etc. on unpaved surfaces. (Homeowners can use flour).

Call Before You Dig:
Call USA North 2 working days to 14 calendar days before you dig in California or Nevada. Only operators who are members of the USA North program will be notified. Compare your list of affected operators determined in Step 1, with the list of operators notified by USA North. For your safety contact any operator at your job site that is not a member of USA North. USA North accepts design inquiry requests through its internet application only, call 1-800-640-5137 ext 2309 for more information. In case of a life-threatening situation, call 911 or your local fire department.

Wait the Required Time:
The legal 2 working days to 14 calendar days notice in California and Nevada allows USA North members to examine their underground facility records and respond to you. Excavators are required by law to wait until all operator(s) of subsurface installations have provided a positive response to their excavation site. The positive response includes operator’s marking, or staking the horizontal path of their facility using the appropriate color code, providing information about the location of their facility, or advising you of clearance. Depending on our member’s workload, they may contact you to try to negotiate a new start time for your excavation.

Respect the Marks:
Preserve facility marks for the duration of the job. If any of the operator markings are not reasonably visible, you must call USA North and request re-marking by the affected operator(s). A re-mark request requires a 2 working day notice. When you request an operator(s) to re-mark their facilities, you will be asked if your excavation site is still outlined in white, so the USA North members can respond to your request.

Note: A USA North ticket is active for 28 calendar days in California and Nevada from the date of its issuance. You must have an active USA North ticket for the entire duration of your excavation.

Dig With Care:
In California and Nevada hand excavate within 24” of the outside diameter of the facility. Facilities that are in conflict with your excavation are to be located with hand tools and protected before power equipment is used. Notify the affected utility of any contact, scrape, dent, nick, or damage to their facility.