

worker beware®

Working safely around utility lines



BGE®

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SMART
ENERGY]SM

Respect the power of electricity

- **When you arrive at a job site, always identify power lines and high-voltage equipment, and point them out to your coworkers.**
- **Assume all overhead power lines are energized, including service drops running between poles and buildings.**
- **Check the site daily, because conditions may change.**
- **Review your emergency plan before work begins, so everyone knows what to do in case of power line contact.**



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For tools & equipment other than cranes & derricks used in construction: always observe the 10-foot rule

- OSHA requires that you keep yourself and your equipment (other than cranes or derricks used in construction) **AT LEAST 10 feet away** from overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV.
- Higher-voltage lines require greater clearances. Contact BGE for clearance information.
- If your job requires you to work closer than 10 feet from power lines, call BGE well in advance to make safety arrangements.
- Electrical safety distances given here are minimums.
- Always use the maximum possible distance, and clearly mark boundaries to keep workers and equipment the required distance away.



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Cranes & derricks in construction

- **When cranes and derricks are used in construction:** Keep the crane boom and load **AT LEAST 20 feet away** from lines up to 350 kV and **50 feet away** from lines greater than 350 kV but at or less than 1000 kV. Always assume the line is energized, and allow nothing closer unless you have confirmed with BGE that the line has been de-energized.
 - If voltage is unknown, contact BGE before work begins.
- **As voltage increases, clearance distances also increase.** Contact BGE and consult the OSHA regulations at www.osha.gov for specific clearance requirements and encroachment prevention precautions.
 - Once you have established the required clearance, clearly mark a boundary with tape, signs, or barricades.
- **Whenever cranes or derricks are used in construction on your job site,** contact BGE well in advance so any necessary facility protection arrangements can be made.



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Use a dedicated spotter



- **Always use a dedicated spotter on the ground** to safely judge distances between hoisting equipment and power lines.
- **Crane and derrick operators** must maintain continuous contact with a dedicated spotter to comply with electric line clearance requirements.
- **The spotter's only responsibility should be power line safety.** Don't divide the spotter's attention with other tasks.



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Call before you dig

- **Call Miss Utility at 811 at least two full business days but not more than 10 days prior to digging.** This free service will arrange to have underground utility lines marked so you can dig a safe distance away. They will arrange to have the underground utilities marked so you can dig safely.
- **Before you call, PRE-MARK your excavation route** so locators can easily identify and mark affected utilities.
- **If you don't call and you hit an underground line,** you could be hurt or killed. You may be held liable for damages.



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



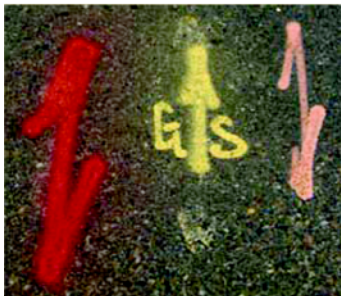
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Dig safely

- **Talk to the property owner.** Ask about any private underground lines that may not belong to a utility and so would not be marked by the locator.
- **Respect the locator marks.** Maintain the marks and follow them when digging.
- **Dig with care.** Hand dig within 18 inches of each side of marked utility lines. Use ONLY hand tools or vacuum excavation equipment within this safety zone.
- **Know the underground utility color code:**

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION COLOR CODE FOR LOCATOR MARKS



	Electric power lines
	Gas, oil, or steam pipelines
	Communications lines, cables, or conduit
	Potable water
	Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines
	Sewer and drain lines
	Temporary survey markings
	Your proposed excavation



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If heavy equipment contacts a power line

- **Remain on the equipment.**
- **Tell others to stay away.**
- **Have someone call 911 and BGE immediately.**
- **If fire or other imminent danger forces you off:**
 - Do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.
 - Jump clear, and land with your feet together.
 - Take very short hops, keeping feet together and making contact with the ground at the same time.



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Recognizing a natural gas pipeline leak

- BGE puts the safety additive mercaptan in natural gas, giving it a rotten-egg odor and making it easier to detect. **Some gas leaks are also detectable by sight or sound.** Signs of a gas leak include:
 - **Dirt** being blown into the air
 - **Dead vegetation** in an otherwise green area
 - **A dry spot** in an otherwise moist area
 - **Fire** coming from the ground or appearing to burn above the ground
 - **Water** bubbling or being blown into the air
 - **Roaring**, blowing, or hissing sounds



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Responding to a natural gas pipeline leak

- **If you suspect a gas leak or if you contact a gas pipeline, take these steps:**
 - **Leave the area immediately** and go to a safe place where you can call BGE at 1.800.685.0123.
 - **Extinguish open flames.** Do not use matches or lighters. Do not attempt to light an appliance.
 - **Do not use any phones, electric switches, thermostats, or appliance controls.** All of these devices, including battery operated equipment can cause sparks and ignite natural gas.
 - **Do not start or turn off vehicles or motorized equipment.** Abandon any motorized equipment.
 - **Do not attempt to find the source of the leak** or to repair a leak.
 - **Call 911 if you are concerned about your safety.**
 - Emergency gas service calls are answered 24/7. BGE will respond promptly to survey the area, perform safety measures, and repair BGE's equipment. There is no charge to investigate a gas leak.



Review your emergency plan before work begins, so everyone knows what to do in case of natural gas pipeline contact.



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Utility safety review

- Identify all power lines and electrical equipment upon arrival at a job site. Recheck the site daily.
- Keep yourself and all tools and equipment other than cranes or derricks used in construction **AT LEAST 10 feet away** from all overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV.
- Cranes and derricks used in construction may require clearances greater than 10 feet and encroachment prevention precautions.
- Always use a dedicated spotter.
- If a power line contact occurs, follow proper safety procedures and immediately call **911** and BGE.
- Call Miss Utility at **811** before you dig.
- Know the warning signs of a natural gas leak.
- If you suspect a gas leak or if you contact a gas pipeline, leave the area immediately and go to a safe place where you can call BGE. Call **911** if you are concerned about your safety.



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Underground utility locator contact information

- Call Miss Utility at **811**.



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



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Contact information

- In case of emergency, call BGE at **1.800.685.0123**.
- For additional information, visit our website at **[BGE.COM/ContractorSafety](https://www.bge.com/ContractorSafety)**.



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Thank you.



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