



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

or 1-800-545-6005



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Safety Division
Pipeline Damage Prevention Program
www.rrc.state.tx.us

Commissioners

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Preventing & Reporting

Pipeline Damage



DIG SAFELY

Texas Pipeline Damage Prevention Program

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Call Before You Dig

811 or 1-800-545-6005

Why call?

Texas law requires that whenever you are planning to dig 16 inches or deeper you must call toll-free 811 or 1-800-545-6005 **48-hours** before you dig to get your area marked.

What does digging mean?

Inserting an object in the dirt that can cause damage to underground pipelines.

A few examples of a digging object are:

- Equipment • Tools • Shovels
- Picks • Stakes • Rods • Posts
- Anything that can damage a pipeline



When you call

Be ready to give the following information:
Your name • Address • Phone number
Date and Start Time • Duration of project
Location of project • Reason for digging

Save the ticket number the one-call center gives you. It's your proof that you called before digging.

After the call

- A locator will come and mark all the underground pipelines in the area at no cost to the caller.
- Wait 48 hours for the site to be marked.
- Refresh your locate ticket after 14 working days.
- Respect and protect all the marks.
- Always dig with care in the tolerance zone as defined in 16 TAC, Chapter 18.2.

Use American Public Works Association (APWA) Color Code to identify all the marks

White	Proposed Excavation
Pink	Temporary Survey Markings
Red	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
Orange	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
Blue	Potable Water
Purple	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
Green	Sewers and Drain Lines

About Reporting Pipeline Damage

New Pipeline Damage Prevention Reporting Rules

Effective Sept. 1, 2007, the Railroad Commission adopted a new Pipeline Damage Prevention Rule to increase pipeline safety awareness in Texas. The number one cause of pipeline accidents in Texas occurs when contractors, work crews and the general public dig around a pipeline and damage it. This is known as third-party damage and happens about 200 times a week in Texas.

New Texas Law Requirements

Texas law requires all damage to pipelines caused by excavators to be reported by both the pipeline operator as well as the person digging around the line. If you are digging around a line, you are known in the industry as an excavator. Operators and excavators who do not file a report with the Railroad Commission can face penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation under this new law.



Damage Definitions

Pipeline damage includes but is not limited to:

1. Defacing, scraping, displacement, penetration, destruction, or partial or complete severance of an underground pipeline or of any protective coating, housing, or other protective device of an underground pipeline;
2. Weakening of structural or lateral support of an underground pipeline that affects the integrity of the pipeline; or
3. Failure to properly replace the backfill surrounding an underground pipeline.



Taking Action If a Pipeline is Damaged

In the event of an emergency, take immediate steps to protect people first and call 911.

If a pipeline is damaged with even a scratch call the pipeline operator immediately through the Notification Center within two hours of the incident.

A **Texas Damage Reporting Form (TDRF)** must be filed with the Railroad Commission within 10 working days of the incident.

A working day is everyday that is not Saturday, Sunday or a Texas state legal holiday.

Other Non-Compliance Activities

Penalties also may be assessed when no damage to a pipeline has occurred. Listed below are a few examples:

- Not calling before digging
- Not refreshing an expired locate ticket
- Calling for an emergency locate when it's not an emergency

For more information on **Reporting No Damage Non-compliance Activities** visit the RRC website: www.rrc.state.tx.us under Damage Prevention Section



or 1-800-545-6005

Texas Damage Reporting Form

(TDRF) FILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Must file electronically
2. The TDRF can be accessed through RRC Online at the following URL:

<http://webapps.rrc.state.tx.us/TPD/publicHomeAction.do>

3. In the TDRF Reports Menu:
Select [Enter a New Excavator Report](#)

For reporting questions call 512-475-0512 and a RRC representative will assist you.

For additional pipeline damage information, go to the Railroad Commission website at www.rrc.state.tx.us.

Para información **EN ESPAÑOL** visite la pagina de la RRC, en el internet.

