

TOOLBOX TALK

DISCUSS WITH CREWS

mm/dd/yyyy

EXCAVATING AND NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

Topic Overview

Excavating is serious business. Knowing where natural gas pipelines are located before you start excavating is the first step to ensure safety on the job. Safety starts with a call to BC One Call to request underground gas line information. You ensure a safe work site by hand digging to expose the gas line before using mechanical equipment. Hitting a pipeline not only threatens the safety of the public and your workers but can also impact the environment and cost you money. Take the necessary precautions, play it safe, and call before you dig.

Do you need a pipeline or right-of-way permit?

The BC Oil and Gas Activities Act requires you to contact FortisBC for activities within 30 metres of a pipeline. You must apply for a permit if you're working:

- within 10 metres of a transmission pressure (TP) pipeline,
- within two metres of an intermediate pressure (IP) pipeline, or
- within a FortisBC right of way.

Example of activities requiring a permit in a right of way

- increasing or decreasing ground elevation
- road and driveway crossings and/or movement of vehicles and equipment across, on or along the right of way (temporary or permanent)
- logging roads (temporary or permanent) and/or logging activities
- underground and overhead utilities
- ditches, drains, sanitary and storm sewers, irrigation lines, water lines and dikes
- test holes
- fences and posts (subject to individual review)
- commercial tree farming
- parking lots
- railways
- sports fields or golf courses (subject to limits on re-grading landscaping, irrigation lines or paving)
- trails (subject to individual review)
- blasting in the vicinity of a transmission natural gas pipeline
- preloading adjacent to a right of way
- stockpiling material adjacent to a right of way



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Safe digging practices

1. Electronically locate and mark lines with paint or stakes until digging is underway.
2. Hand dig to locate and expose buried gas lines. before excavating with powered excavation equipment (see FIG. 1).
3. Do not use powered equipment within 1 m of the gas line when locating and exposing. Mechanized equipment should only be used to break the surface (see Section 39(7) of the Gas Safety Regulation).
4. Wherever possible, operate powered excavation equipment to dig parallel to the direction of the gas line.
5. If it is not practical to hand dig, hydrovacing is acceptable. Take care when hydrovacing to avoid damaging pipe coating or wrapping.
6. You must obtain additional location information and approvals if you wish to excavate outside the area for which gas line location records have been provided.
7. You are not authorized to cut or remove inactive natural gas lines.
8. Notify FortisBC when a pipe or the coating is damaged, so inspection and repair can be done.
9. If your project is delayed and excavation work has not started within 10 working days of receiving gas line information from FortisBC, you must verify the location information through BC One Call before beginning work.

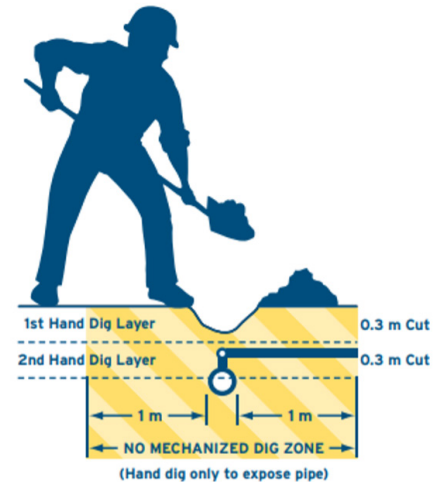


FIG. 1 - Hand digging for a gas line

Warning: Fittings may protrude from the pipe and can be easily damaged by excavation equipment.

Resources

- Call BC One Call at 1-800-474-6886 or *6886 on the TELUS or Rogers mobile network, or click on bconecall.ca to request gas and other utility line location information at least two business days before you begin your excavation. This is required under provincial gas safety regulations.
- Visit bc1c.ca and click on Request Locate Ticket. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 1-800-474-6886 – Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

TOOLBOX TALK

LOCATION		DATE	
PRESENTED BY		TIME	

Review previous Workplace Inspections

Review previous Accident/Incident/Near Misses

Other Safety Issues or Suggestions made by Staff

Attendance Record

NAME	SIGNATURE	NAME	SIGNATURE

TOOLBOX MEETING REVIEWED	NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	DATE
MANAGEMENT REP			
WORKER REP			