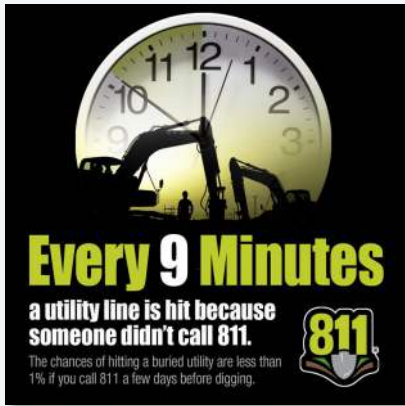


Get Informed and Encourage Change



BOTTOM LINE: Until Alaska enforces its own excavation damage prevention law, excavators are subject to federal enforcement.



Effective October 1, 2016, if you are an excavator who unlawfully damages a natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline in Alaska, you are subject to federal enforcement. If Alaska develops and enforces a state One-Call law that meets the minimum federal standard, the federal government will have no jurisdiction over excavators in Alaska. PHMSA wants the States to enforce their own One-Call laws. We are working hard to support the State's efforts to improve their enforcement programs.



U.S. Department of Transportation

PHMSA's mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. To do this, the agency establishes national policy, sets and enforces standards, educates, and conducts research to prevent incidents. PHMSA also prepares the public and first responders to reduce consequences if an incident does occur.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us at:

Email: phmsa.pipelinesafety@dot.gov

Phone: 202-366-4595

Website: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/enforcement/enforcement-overview>



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

Alaska and the Federal Excavator Enforcement Rule





If You are an Excavator or Pipeline Operator in Alaska, Federal Regulations Require You to Prevent Excavation

Federal regulations require excavators to do the following:

- ⇒ Contact 811 Alaska Dig Line before you dig by calling 811 or open E-Ticket at www.akonecall.com.
- ⇒ Wait for pipeline operators to mark the location of underground pipelines.
- ⇒ Excavate with proper regard for the marked location of pipelines an operator has established by taking all practicable steps to prevent excavation damage
- ⇒ Contact 811 Alaska Dig Line again, if necessary, for any reason to ensure underground pipelines are not damaged.

BOTTOM LINE: If you damage a pipeline, immediately report the damage to the pipeline operator. If there is a release of natural gas or hazardous liquid from a damaged pipeline, immediately call 911.

You May be Subject to Federal Penalties if You Unlawfully Cause Excavation Damage to a Pipeline

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has determined that Alaska does not adequately enforce its One-Call law. According to federal law, if a State does not adequately enforce its own One-Call law, PHMSA may take enforcement action against excavators and pipeline operators who cause excavation damage to natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines

BOTTOM LINE: If you cause excavation damage to a natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline in Alaska, you may be subject to federal penalties of up to \$272,926 for each violation for each day the violation continues, with a maximum penalty of up to \$2,729,245 for a related series of violations.



Encourage Alaska to Enforce It's Own One-Call Law

The federal government does not want to be involved in state related excavation damage. Encourage your Alaska policymakers to strengthen and enforce the existing one-call law. Enforcement of the State One-Call laws is the responsibility of the State of Alaska, not the federal government.

However, since Alaska does not enforce its own One-Call law, the federal government is empowered to act as a “backstop” authority in Alaska in the case of excavation damage to natural gas or hazardous liquid pipelines.

If Alaska begins to adequately enforce the One-Call law, the federal government will no longer have enforcement authority in Alaska.

Every excavation damage to a natural gas pipeline is a potential disaster. Enforcement of One-Call requirements reduces rates of excavation damage to pipelines and other underground infrastructure.

