

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Call Before You Dig -- It's the Law

CASPER –Before you dig a hole for that new tree or any other project, it's not just a good idea to check for underground lines. It's the law. Two business days before your project, call 811. Every time.

Revised sections of Wyoming's Damage Prevention law, effective July 1, 2010, require every business with any kind of underground line that leaves its property to make that information available to the public. And the public must let that business know about plans to dig.

This is accomplished through "One-Call of Wyoming," an industry-supported group based in Casper. The One-Call notification center maintains contact information for every member entity in the state that has any underground lines.

Members range from major natural gas utility companies to communications companies and municipalities. They include the small hometown bank that runs a line across an alley to its drive-through windows, as well as the local school with computer lines connecting beneath public roadways.

The excavator who wants to dig for any reason calls 811, One-Call of Wyoming, with information about location and type of project. The One-Call notification center passes on the information to all the affected businesses, which have two business days to locate and mark their underground lines.

When the excavator makes any contact with, or damage to, any underground facility, the law now requires the excavator to **immediately** report the incident to **both** the facility operator and the One-Call Notification Center.

"Our goal is to eliminate damage to underground facilities and to protect not just the property but also life and limb," said Collens Wakefield, executive director of One-Call of Wyoming. "Always call before you dig. Exercise reasonable care while digging. Immediately report all contact and/or damage to an underground line."

Just failing to call 811 for a locate may entail a \$500 fine. Consequences of failure to make that call, resulting in damage to an underground line, may now lead to fines of up to \$75,000.

The new law requires every facility owner (anyone with any kind of underground line leaving private property) to join One-Call of Wyoming or be subject to a \$500 fine each year of non-compliance.

Call 811 or 800-849-2476. Information is available at [www.onecallofwyoming.com](http://www.onecallofwyoming.com).