



Dig Safe Month awareness essential to avoid consequences of heightened digging activity

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As the number of construction activities in Saskatchewan continues to increase, so does the risk of contacts with underground facilities. April has been proclaimed Dig Safe Month in Saskatchewan with the goal of promoting incident-free excavation activities.

“Contacting a line can cause more than a minor project delay or inconvenience,” says Shannon Doka, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA). “In Saskatchewan, we have had contacts which have caused major outages of electricity, natural gas, telecommunications services, significant financial penalties, and even injury and death. One simple click or call to Sask 1st Call can make your digging job free of worry.”

“All signals are pointing toward a busy season of digging activity,” said Erin Rodger, Manager, Sask 1st Call. “As soon as the ground starts to warm, there is a huge influx of excavation and ground disturbance. In the excitement of starting spring projects, it is important to properly plan your work and the first step is requesting locates by contacting Sask 1st Call.”

The SCGA and its [95 members](#), the Government of Saskatchewan and Sask 1st Call are reminding the public to request a locate at [Request Online – Sask 1st Call](#) for underground lines before starting any digging project. This year will mark a gradual return to select in-person activities to promote Dig Safe Month. Contractor breakfasts will take place on April 27 in [Lloydminster](#) and April 28 in [Estevan](#). To help promote Safe Digging Month, the SCGA provides the public with access to the Best Practices Manual and a new set of locally produced educational videos for both homeowners and professional contractors. There is also a new [information card](#) available on request. View the videos and much more about safe digging at [scga.ca](#).

“It has never been easier to request line locates at [www.sask1stcall.com/request-online](#),” added Rodger. “Click before you dig at least three working days before your intended dig date. This will allow our member companies the time to receive the request and provide locates for safer digging.”

For contractors, a network of complicated underground infrastructure delivers heat, electricity, water, phone, and internet, making modern life convenient for Canadians. For individuals, every digging project warrants a locate request. Projects such as installing a fence, planting a tree, planting a new garden, and building a deck are all examples where you require a locate request.

Every year, however, thousands of buried wires, cables and pipelines are damaged by excavation activities – big or small; this damage is estimated to cost Canadians up to \$1 billion annually. SCGA encourages you to protect yourself, your family and your community by digging safe.

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For more information or to arrange interviews contact:

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