



## APRIL IS DIG SAFE MONTH

*The Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance encourages people to make a free locate request a week before digging to know what's below*

**Regina, Saskatchewan (April 1, 2020)** – The spring digging season is almost here!

The Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance and Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call reminds residents to request a locate for underground utility lines to be marked prior to any digging project. Requesting a free locate and digging safely around underground utilities are crucial steps on the path to safety.

“During April and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors to click before you dig to minimize the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Shannon Doka, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance, “It really is the only way to Know What’s Below.”

Underground infrastructure delivers heat, electricity, water, phones and internet, making modern life possible for you and your family. Every year, however, thousands of buried wires, cables, pipelines, water mains, and sewer lines are damaged in Canada by excavation activities.

**When damages occur, the result is almost always an interruption in service. At worst, it can lead to injury, death and/or environmental contamination. It can also harm your businesses’ reputation and hit you hard in the wallet due to the costs of repairs and fines. Damage to buried utilities costs Canadians more than \$1 billion a year.**

The [ClickBeforeYouDig.com](http://ClickBeforeYouDig.com) web portal connects homeowners and contractors with their local One-Call Centre. It will notify the appropriate utility companies of the intent to dig. Professional locators are sent to the dig site to locate and mark underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

“Since introducing improvements to [the Sask 1st Call website](http://theSask1stCall.com), it has never been easier to request line locates online,” said Erin Rodger, Manager of Sask 1st Call. “It is so important to request locates at least three full working days before you plan to start your work. This is a vital step to keeping yourself, your family and community safe from the negative consequences when an underground utility is damaged.”

Every digging project warrants a visit to [ClickBeforeYouDig.com](http://ClickBeforeYouDig.com). Installing a fence, planting a tree and building a deck are all examples of digging projects requiring a locate request.

**To help promote Safe Digging Month, the SCGA provides you with access to the CCGA Best Practices Manual and locally produced educational videos for homeowners and professional contractors. View the videos and much more about safe digging at [scga.ca](http://scga.ca).**

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For more information or to arrange an interview contact:

Shannon Doka  
Executive Director, Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA)  
306-539-2169  
[executivedirector@scga.ca](mailto:executivedirector@scga.ca)

Erin Rodger  
Manager, Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call  
306-777-9507  
[erodger@sask1stcall.com](mailto:erodger@sask1stcall.com)

## FACT SHEET

### How Click Before You Dig works:

- Visiting ClickBeforeYouDig.com will connect you with your local one-call centre.
- Requesting locates online is a convenient way to submit a request at your convenience. A ticket confirmation will be sent via email once your request has been processed.
- When submitting your locate request, provide an accurate location and description of the planned digging site.
- The affected utility companies will be notified of the intent to dig.
- The utility companies will each send a professional locator to the digging site to identify and mark the approximate location of the underground lines.
- Once lines have been marked, you should respect the marks and dig carefully around them.
- Each utility has specific guidelines on how to work around their facilities. For example, if you must dig within one to 1.5 meters of a buried line, some utilities require the use of hand tools to carefully expose the line before digging further.

### Types of projects:

- Lines need to be marked for each separate project, such as putting up a fence, planting a tree or building a deck.
- Submit your locate request at least three full working days prior to digging to allow time for Member companies to respond to the request and mark any underground facilities in your work area.
- Even if you've hired a contractor, make sure the contractor visits ClickBeforeYouDig.com to have lines marked prior to starting any ground disturbance

### Consequences:

- Every year, the estimated cost of damaging buried utilities in Canada is more than \$1 billion.
- Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause serious injuries, disrupt service to entire neighborhoods, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.
- **Even minor marks or dents can compromise a buried utility's overall integrity and lead to problems at a later date.**

### Saskatchewan STATS:

- Saskatchewan reported close to 500 damages in 2018