

Call Before You Dig – It's the Law!

Spring is here (finally), and temperatures are on the rise! With nicer weather on the horizon, many people are beginning to plan excavation projects and improvements on their property. If you are one of them, remember that there may be underground utilities that can cause tremendous damage if you don't take precautions.

If you are planning excavation or construction jobs that may be located near buried facilities, pipes, telephone lines, or cables, New York law requires that you call the state's *Underground Facilities Protective Organization* (UFPO) at least two weeks before you begin your project. You can call UFPO, toll-free at 1-800-962-7962. All operators of underground facilities must become members of the UFPO One-Call network; when notified of an excavation that could affect their facilities, operators have two working days to locate and mark all buried lines within 15 feet of the proposed work area.

When you call UFPO, please be prepared to give the following information:

- Two full working days' notice (except in emergency situations)
- Excavating company's name
- Caller's name and company address, phone, and fax numbers
- County in which work is being done
- Name of city, village, or town; and street name and number
- Nearest intersecting street to work site
- If the work is within 500 feet of a traffic signal
- Date and time work is to begin
- Type of work being done, and for whom (if applicable)
- Means of excavation, and if you are blasting
- Name of field contact and cellular or field office phone number