Pre-Excavation Checklist

PLANNING PHASE
• Call 811 2-3 business days prior to excavation (state laws vary)
• Proposed excavation area has been marked in white paint and/or flags
• Onsite meeting scheduled with all high-profile facilities in locate area (gas/oil pipelines, high voltage cables, fiber optic, etc.)

ONSITE
Complete a pre-excavation walkthrough of the entire jobsite, adjacent areas and visually inspect for:
• WARNING signs or other pipeline markers
• Old locate marks or flags
• Identify all services to buildings

Visually inspect for:
• Gas meters
• Farm taps
• Propane tanks
• Pipeline valves
• Cable or telephone pedestals
• Electric transformers
• Water valves or meters
• Evidence of privately owned facilities such as buried gas, electric or communications lines*
• Evidence of trench lines from previous excavation
• Cleared pipeline rights-of-way

DOCUMENTING JOBSITE
• 811 ticket covers the scope of the work and has a valid “work to begin” date
• All utilities have responded and are marked in the excavation area
• 811 ticket number is posted at the work location

BEFORE YOU DIG
• Review excavation equipment safety information with anyone working on the job
• Locations for hand digging within the tolerance zone* for your state are noted
• Talk to representatives of all critical facilities to ensure they are present
• List of all emergency contact numbers for underground utilities in and adjacent to the dig zone is readily available
• The location and route to emergency services is known

*Private underground facilities are NOT marked when you contact 811. It is the responsibility of the landowner to provide detailed information about these lines. These may include:
• Electric lines running between out-buildings or any line behind the meter
• Natural gas lines behind the meter
• Propane lines off the tank
• Sewer laterals or waste collection lines
• Sprinkler or irrigation lines

*The “tolerance zone” is the 24” area on either side of a buried facility where hand tools or soft digging must be done.