



Presenter's Notes



Before darkening the room, offer a welcome and overview. Begin by introducing the program and its topic:

Today's training session focuses on working safely around electric power lines and natural gas pipelines. By following the procedures we'll cover here today, you can keep yourself and your crew members safe and on the job. On the other hand, if you cut corners where power lines are concerned, you put yourself, your crew and the public at risk of serious injury and even death. Please pay careful attention, and ask questions if you don't understand.

Darken the room and begin the presentation.

Respect the Power of Electricity

- **When you arrive at a job site, always identify power lines, poles, guy wires and pad-mounted equipment**, and point them out to your crew.
- **Look for overhead lines** hidden by trees or buildings.
- **Consider *all* overhead lines to be energized and potentially dangerous**, including the service drops that run from utility poles to buildings.
- **Check the site daily** because conditions may change.
- **Review your emergency plan** before work begins so everyone knows what to do in case of power line contact.



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Respect the power of electricity and follow some simple best practices before starting work.

- When you arrive at a job site, always identify power lines, poles, guy wires and pad-mounted equipment, and point them out to your crew. Review proper safety procedures before beginning work.
- Look for overhead lines hidden by trees or buildings.
- Consider *all* overhead lines to be energized and potentially dangerous, including the service drops that run from utility poles to buildings. These wires may look insulated, but any coating you see is designed to protect the lines from weather, not to protect you from shock. Contact can still be deadly, so keep your distance.
- Check the site daily because conditions may change. Always survey the site before beginning the day's work.
- Review your emergency plan before work begins so everyone knows what to do in case of power line contact.

**For Tools and Equipment Other than Cranes and Derricks
Used in Construction, Observe the 10-Foot Rule**

- Cal/OSHA requires that you keep yourself and your equipment (other than cranes or derricks used in construction) **at least 10 feet away** from overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV.
- Higher-voltage lines require greater clearances. Contact SMUD at 1-866-473-9582 and consult Cal/OSHA for clearance information.
- Tree trimmers must also maintain all required safety clearances. Take measures to ensure cut limbs, branches and tools do not fall onto power lines.
- If your job requires you to work closer than 10 feet from power lines, call SMUD well in advance to make safety arrangements.
- Electrical safety distances given here are minimums.
- Always use the maximum possible clearance, and clearly mark boundaries to keep workers and equipment the required distance away.

For tools and equipment other than cranes and derricks used in construction, always observe the 10-foot rule. (Cranes and derricks on construction sites may require greater clearances, which we will discuss on the next slide.)

- Cal/OSHA requires that you keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV. This applies to all personnel, tools, materials and equipment other than cranes or derricks used in construction. Be aware that wind can move equipment, so build in some extra distance in case of an unexpected shift. A good rule of thumb is to maintain a buffer zone of the minimum required clearance plus 1.5 times the length of your tools or materials.
- Higher-voltage lines require greater clearances. Contact SMUD at 1-866-473-9582 and consult Cal/OSHA for clearance information. Remember that your best practice is always to stay as far away as possible from power lines.
- Tree trimmers must also maintain all required safety clearances. Take measures to ensure cut limbs, branches and tools do not fall onto power lines.
- If your job requires you to work closer than 10 feet from power lines, call SMUD well in advance to make safety arrangements. Cutting corners and failing to call could have life-threatening and livelihood-threatening consequences.
- Electrical safety distances given here are minimums.
- Always use the maximum possible distance, and clearly mark boundaries with tape, signs or barricades to keep workers and equipment away.

Cranes and Derricks in Construction

- **Keep the crane boom and load at least 20 feet away** from lines up to 350 kV and **50 feet away** from lines greater than 350 kV but at or less than 1,000 kV. Always assume the line is energized, and allow nothing closer unless you have confirmed with the utility owner/operator that the line has been de-energized.
- **As voltage increases, clearance distances also increase.** Contact SMUD at 1-866-473-9582 and consult Cal/OSHA for specific clearance requirements and encroachment prevention precautions.
 - Once you have established the required clearance, mark a safety boundary with tape, signs or barricades.
- **Whenever cranes or derricks are used on your job site**, contact SMUD well in advance. They will confirm safety clearances and make any necessary facility protection arrangements.

Cranes and derricks used in construction require different clearances than other equipment.

- You must keep the crane boom and load at least 20 feet away from lines up to 350 kV and 50 feet away from lines greater than 350 kV but at or less than 1,000 kV. Always assume the line is energized, and allow nothing closer unless you have confirmed with the utility owner/operator that the line has been de-energized.
- As voltage increases, clearance distances also increase. Contact SMUD and consult Cal/OSHA for specific clearance requirements and encroachment prevention precautions.
 - Once you have established the required clearance, mark a safety boundary with tape, signs or barricades.
- Whenever cranes or derricks are used on your job site, contact SMUD well in advance. They will send a representative to your job site to confirm voltages and safety clearances and to make any necessary facility protection arrangements.

Use a Dedicated Spotter



- **Always use a dedicated, qualified spotter on the ground** to safely judge distances between hoisting equipment and power lines.
- **Crane and derrick operators**, you must maintain continuous contact with a dedicated spotter to comply with line clearance requirements.
- **The spotter's only responsibility should be power line safety.** Don't divide the spotter's attention with other tasks.

Use a dedicated spotter when working with hoisting equipment around overhead lines.

- Always use a dedicated, qualified spotter on the ground to safely judge distances between hoisting equipment and power lines. From the ground, the spotter will have the clearest vantage point and best be able to judge distances correctly.
- Crane and derrick operators must maintain continuous contact with a dedicated spotter to comply with electric line clearance requirements.
- The spotter's only responsibility should be power line safety. Don't divide the spotter's attention with other tasks. To be effective, the spotter must make spotting and clear communication with the equipment operator the top priorities.

If Your Equipment Contacts a Power Line

- Both the equipment and the line should be considered energized.
- Move the equipment away from the line if you can do so safely.
- Remain on the equipment.
- Warn others to stay far away.
- Have someone call 911 and then SMUD immediately at 1-888-456-7683.
- If fire or other imminent danger forces you off:
 - Do NOT touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.
 - Jump clear, and land with your feet together.
 - Shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground at all times, or hop away on two feet, keeping both feet together.
 - Do not return to the equipment until utility personnel tell you it is safe.
- Never touch fallen power lines or anything they may be contacting.



If your equipment contacts a power line, it's critical to follow proper safety procedures.

- Both the equipment and the line should be considered energized.
- Move the equipment away from the line if you can do so safely.
- Remain on the equipment until utility workers say it's safe to get off. Anyone on the equipment is safe from shock as long as they stay put.
- Warn others to stay far away. Anyone who touches the equipment or even the ground nearby may be injured or killed.
- Have someone call 911 and then SMUD immediately at 1-888-456-7683. Their personnel will respond, switch off the power and tell you when it is safe to leave or move the equipment. Wait for their instructions.
- If fire or other imminent danger forces you off the equipment, take these steps:
 - Do NOT touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.
 - Jump clear, and land with your feet together.
 - Shuffle away with small steps, keeping both feet close together and on the ground at all times, or hop away on two feet, keeping both feet together. Resist the temptation to run or take long steps, because this puts you at risk for shock.
 - Do not return to the equipment until utility personnel tell you it is safe.
- Never touch fallen power lines or anything they may be contacting. Stay far away, and call 911 and then SMUD to report the emergency.
- If you damage a buried high-voltage power line, notify the Underground Safety Board at california811.org within two hours.

Demonstrate the jump-off procedure.

Notify 811 Before You Dig. It's the Law!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

- **Dial 811 or submit an electronic ticket at california811.org before you dig or move earth in any way.** This free service will arrange to mark underground utility lines so you can dig safely.
- **Before you notify 811, pre-mark your proposed excavation area** with white paint, flags and/or stakes so locators can easily identify and mark affected utilities.
- **If you don't notify 811, you risk hitting an underground line.** You, your crew members or others could be hurt or killed. You may be held liable for any resulting damages, as well as outage and repair costs.
- **As of July 1, 2020, California farmers may apply to 811 for an Area of Continual Excavation (ACE) ticket, which is valid for one year.** Visit <https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/underground-safety-board/area-of-continual-excavation> for more information.

Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.

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Underground power lines and natural gas pipelines can pose an unseen but very real danger. By law, and for your safety, you must notify the 811 center before you dig.

- Dial 811 or submit an electronic ticket at california811.org before you dig or move earth in any way. This free service will arrange the marking of underground power lines and other buried utilities in your dig area, so you can work a safe distance away from them. Be sure to leave adequate time in your job schedule. The service is free, but the costs of not calling can be very high. Building in a few extra days for the job costs less in the long run than spending months or years recovering physically and financially from a power line incident. And remember, it's the law.
- Before you notify 811, pre-mark your proposed excavation area with white paint, flags and/or stakes so locators can easily identify and mark affected utilities.
- If you don't notify 811, you risk hitting an underground utility line. You, your crew members or others could be hurt or killed. You may be held liable for any resulting damages, as well as outage and repair costs.
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- Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.

Wait the Required Time

- In California, wait at least two working days, not including the date of your request, weekends and legal holidays.
- Confirm that all utilities have responded by checking Electronic Positive Response at california811.org.
- If you wait the required time and the locate is not completed, **do not dig**. Notify the 811 service that your locate request has not been fulfilled.

Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.



After you notify 811, wait the required time for buried utility lines to be marked before you dig:

- This wait time varies by state. In California, wait at least two working days, not including the date of your request, weekends and legal holidays.
- Confirm that all utilities have responded by checking Electronic Positive Response at california811.org. Since January 1, 2021, relevant utilities are required to report their response to your ticket on Electronic Positive Response.
- If you wait the required time and the locate is not completed, **do not dig!** You must notify the 811 service that your locate request has not been fulfilled.

Conduct a Visual Site Survey



- **Do not rely exclusively on the locate marks.** Look for visual indicators of underground facilities that have not been marked, such as meters, valves and pad-mounted transformers.
- **Check with property owners about any private underground lines** that would not have been marked by the locator.
- **Also check for signs of something buried after the locate was completed,** such as a fresh trench.
- **If you find a newly installed or unmarked facility,** call 811.





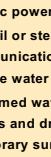
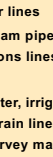
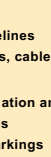
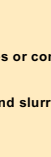
Conduct a visual site survey before beginning any digging.

- Do not rely exclusively on the locate marks. Look for visual indicators of underground facilities that have not been marked, such as meters, valves and pad-mounted transformers. Use your common sense and industry knowledge.
- Check with property owners about any private underground lines that would not have been marked by the locator because they do not belong to a utility.
- Also check for signs of something buried after the locate was completed, such as a fresh trench.
- If you find a newly installed or unmarked facility, call 811.

Respect the Marks, and Dig with Care

- **Not all utilities are 811 members.** You are responsible for notifying non-member utilities about your project. Check with 811 for more information.
- **Respect the locator marks.** Maintain utility indicator marks, and follow them when digging.
- **Dig with care.** Exercise extreme caution when digging near buried utilities, and have a spotter present to observe the excavation whenever heavy equipment is used.
- **Know the underground utility color code:**

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION COLOR CODE FOR LOCATOR MARKS

							
Electric power lines	Gas, oil or steam pipelines	Communications lines, cables or conduit	Potable water	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines	Sewers and drain lines	Temporary survey markings	Proposed excavation

After you contact 811, the underground utility locator service will arrange for each member utility to send someone out to your dig site to mark the underground lines.

- Not all utilities are 811 members and may not be notified. You are responsible for notifying non-member utilities. Check with 811 for more information.
- Respect the locator marks. Maintain utility indicator marks for the duration of the job and follow them when digging. If lines become confusing, faded or illegible, notify 811 to refresh them—do NOT use paint to refresh fading marks yourself! Be sure to renew and update your 811 ticket per state regulations.
- Dig with care. Exercise extreme caution when digging near buried utilities, and have a spotter present to observe the excavation whenever heavy equipment is used.
- Know the underground utility color code. Utilities use these colors to mark their lines. Learn the code to stay safe.

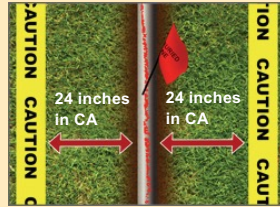
Point to the chart as you speak.

- Red: Electric power lines
- Yellow: Gas, oil or steam pipelines
- Orange: Communications lines, cables or conduit
- Blue: Potable water
- Purple: Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
- Green: Sewers and drain lines
- Pink: Temporary survey markings
- White: Proposed excavation

Respect the Tolerance Zone

- **Adhere to state laws for digging within the "tolerance zone."** This safety area spans the width of a marked utility line plus a state-mandated distance from each indicated outside edge of the line: 24 inches in California.
- **Hand dig prudently in this zone.**
- **Once visual identification has been achieved,** you may use mechanized digging equipment. Use a spotter to observe the excavation and help prevent damage when heavy equipment is used near power lines.
- **The tolerance zone is a *minimum* safety clearance.** Protect yourself by using the maximum possible distance.

Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.



Respecting the tolerance zone protects buried utility lines from damage and protects you from injury.

- Adhere to state laws for digging within the tolerance zone, a safety area that spans the width of a marked utility line plus a state-mandated distance from each indicated outside edge of the line.
 - In California, this distance is 24 inches.
- Hand dig prudently in this zone. Use extreme care and caution. Too many accidental utility contacts have occurred when someone dug with a backhoe or other power-operated equipment instead of a shovel.
- Once visual identification has been achieved, you may use mechanized digging equipment. Use a spotter to observe the excavation and help prevent damage when heavy equipment is used near power lines.
- The tolerance zone is a minimum safety clearance. Locator marks are only the locator's most reasonable interpretation of the equipment's signal. So protect yourself by using the maximum possible distance.

Know When to Stop Digging



- If there are no locate marks after you have waited the required time, do NOT dig.
- If you do not understand the locate marks, do NOT dig.
- If you cannot visually verify the location of marked utility lines, STOP digging.
- If you find unmarked, mismarked or seemingly abandoned facilities, STOP digging.
- If you see signs of something buried after the locate was complete, such as a fresh trench, STOP digging.
- If the marks fade or are destroyed, STOP digging, and contact 811 to request a new ticket.

When you work around buried power lines and natural gas pipelines, knowing when to stop a job could save your life.

- If there are no locate marks after you have waited the required time, do NOT dig. Notify the 811 service that your locate request has not been fulfilled.
- If you do not understand the locate marks, do NOT dig. Ask your supervisor what you must do to work safely.
- If you cannot visually verify the location of marked utility lines by hand digging, STOP digging and notify 811 immediately.
- If you find unmarked, mismarked or seemingly abandoned facilities, STOP digging. Assume all utility lines are in service, and report them to 811.
- If you see signs of something buried after the locate was complete, such as a fresh trench, STOP digging. Notify 811.
- If the marks fade or are destroyed, STOP digging, and contact 811 to request a new ticket. Do not resume digging until the area is re-marked.

Natural Gas Basics

- **Natural gas travels through pressurized underground pipelines of varying diameters.**
The size of a gas line is NOT a reliable indicator of the internal pressure.
- **Local natural gas distribution utilities add a distinctive, sulfur-like odor to natural gas to assist in the detection of leaks.**
However, in certain conditions, you may not be able to smell this odorant.
- **Leaking natural gas can be ignited by a tiny flame or spark—even from a lit cigarette or a phone.**



Understanding natural gas basics will help you prevent accidents around natural gas pipelines.

- Natural gas travels through pressurized underground pipelines of varying diameters. These pipelines range from 1 inch to 4 feet wide. There are three types of pipes used in the system: transmission pipelines, main lines and service lines. It pays to be careful around ALL types of pipelines. Pipeline pressure can vary from ¼ pound to 1,000 pounds per square inch. The pressure is what moves the gas through the pipes. It's also what makes damaging a pipeline so dangerous.
- Local natural gas distribution utilities add a distinctive, sulfur-like odor to natural gas to assist in the detection of leaks. However, in certain conditions, this smell may not be apparent. Additionally, weather and soil conditions can strip the odorant from the gas.
- Leaking natural gas can be ignited by a tiny spark or flame—even from a lit cigarette or a phone. To avoid spark hazards, do not turn anything electrical on—or off—in the vicinity of a gas leak.

Watch Out Around Pipeline Markers

- Pipeline markers indicate the need for **extra care** around natural gas transmission pipelines.
- These markers are **general indicators only**. For security purposes, they do not show the exact location, path, depth or number of gas pipelines.
- The markers should never be used as a substitute for calling 811.
- Call the number on the marker if you notice any type of suspicious activity or excavation occurring nearby without gas utility personnel present.



State law requires you have a SMUD representative stand by when digging within 10 feet on either side of our high-pressure natural gas pipelines.

It's critical to be aware of gas transmission pipelines in the vicinity of your job site.

- Pipeline markers indicate the need for extra care around natural gas transmission pipelines. These markers are usually found at roadways, railroad crossings and other points along the pipeline route.
- These markers are general indicators only. For security purposes, they do not show the exact location, path, depth or number of gas pipelines in the area, and not all pipelines follow a straight course between markers. Maps can also be viewed to identify the approximate locations of major natural gas pipelines (but not gas distribution main lines or service lines). You can access them via the National Pipeline Mapping System website: <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov>.
- The markers should never be used as a substitute for calling 811. Nor should you rely on the pipeline maps. 811 is your best resource for natural gas pipeline locates.
- Call the number on the marker if you notice any type of suspicious activity or excavation occurring nearby without gas utility personnel present.

Natural Gas Leak Detection: Look, Listen and Smell

- **Natural gas utilities add a distinctive, sulfur-like odor to natural gas to assist in leak detection.** However, this odor may fade or be difficult to distinguish, and not all gas transmission lines are odorized.
- **Don't rely on your nose alone. Use your senses of sight, hearing and smell to detect a natural gas leak.** Here are the signs:
 - The distinctive odor of natural gas
 - Continuous bubbling in water
 - A hissing, whistling or roaring sound
 - Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near a pipeline
 - Dirt blowing into the air from a hole in the ground
 - Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster
 - A damaged connection to a gas appliance



When it comes to detecting natural gas leaks, you must use all your senses. Look, listen and smell.

- Local natural gas distribution utilities add a distinctive, sulfur-like odor to natural gas to assist in leak detection. However, this odor may fade or be difficult to distinguish. Additionally, gas in some transmission pipelines may not be odorized.
- So don't rely on your nose alone. Use your senses of sight, hearing and smell to detect a natural gas leak. Here are the signs:
 - The distinctive odor of natural gas. This smells like sulfur or rotten eggs.
 - Continuous bubbling in water.
 - A hissing, whistling or roaring sound. The sound will vary with the pressure in the line.
 - Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near a pipeline.
 - Dirt blowing into the air from a hole in the ground. This will vary with pressure as well.
 - Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster.
 - A damaged connection to a gas appliance.

Natural Gas Emergencies

■ If you contact a natural gas pipeline or suspect a gas leak, take these steps:

- Warn others and leave the area immediately.
- Do NOT use matches or lighters, start an engine or operate any electrical device—even a phone. A spark could ignite leaking gas, causing a fire or explosion.
- Do NOT attempt to stop the flow of gas or fix the pipeline. Leave the excavation open.
- When you have reached a safe distance, report the incident:
 - Call 911 immediately if you suspect a gas leak. Federal code requires this.
 - Call SMUD's gas emergency number at 1-800-877-7683 if you suspect a natural gas pipeline leak or contact a pipeline, even if damage is not apparent.
 - Notify the Underground Safety Board at california811.org within two hours.
- Stay far away from the area until SMUD personnel say it is safe to return.
- Report the incident to your supervisor.



A natural gas pipeline may become compromised even when damage is not visible, and the smallest spark can ignite leaking natural gas and cause a fire or explosion.

So if you contact a natural gas pipeline or suspect a gas leak, assume there's a danger and take these steps:

- Warn others and leave the area immediately.
- Do not use matches or a lighter, start an engine or operate any electrical device—even a phone. A spark could ignite leaking gas.
- Do not attempt to stop the flow of gas or fix the pipeline. Leave the excavation open.
- When you have reached a safe distance, report the incident:
 - Call 911 immediately if you suspect a gas leak. Federal code requires this.
 - Call SMUD's gas emergency number at 1-800-877-7683 if you suspect a natural gas pipeline leak or contact a pipeline, even if damage is not apparent. Remember: A pipeline that is pulled or bumped could break some distance away from the contact point. A scrape to a pipeline coating can lead to corrosion that causes a future gas leak. And a cut tracer wire on a plastic pipeline can make the line unlocatable in the future. So report any and all natural gas pipeline contacts to SMUD immediately.
 - If you damage a buried gas line, file a damage report with the Underground Safety Board at california811.org within two hours. New California legislation requires excavators to quickly notify the Underground Safety Board of natural gas damage incidents.
- Stay far away from the area until SMUD personnel say it is safe to return.
- Report the incident to your supervisor.

Utility Safety Review

- Identify all power lines and electrical equipment upon arrival at a job site. Recheck the site daily and review your emergency plan.
- Keep yourself and all tools and equipment **at least 10 feet away** from all overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV. Higher voltages require greater clearances, as do cranes and derricks used in construction.
- Always use a dedicated spotter.
- If a power line contact occurs, follow proper safety procedures, and immediately call **911** and then SMUD at 1-888-456-7683.
- Notify the underground utility locator service by dialing **811** or using the online ticket-entry system before you dig.
- Wait the required amount of time for lines to be marked. In California, that's two full working days, not including the date you notify the 811 service.
- Respect the marks and dig with care near buried utilities.
- Watch out around pipeline markers. Report any suspicious activity nearby.
- Know the warning signs of a natural gas leak.
- In a natural gas emergency, warn others and leave the area immediately, avoid spark hazards and call **911** and then SMUD's gas emergency number at 1-800-877-7683.
- If you damage a buried gas line or high-voltage power line, notify the Underground Safety Board within two hours.

So let's review the key safety points of this presentation.

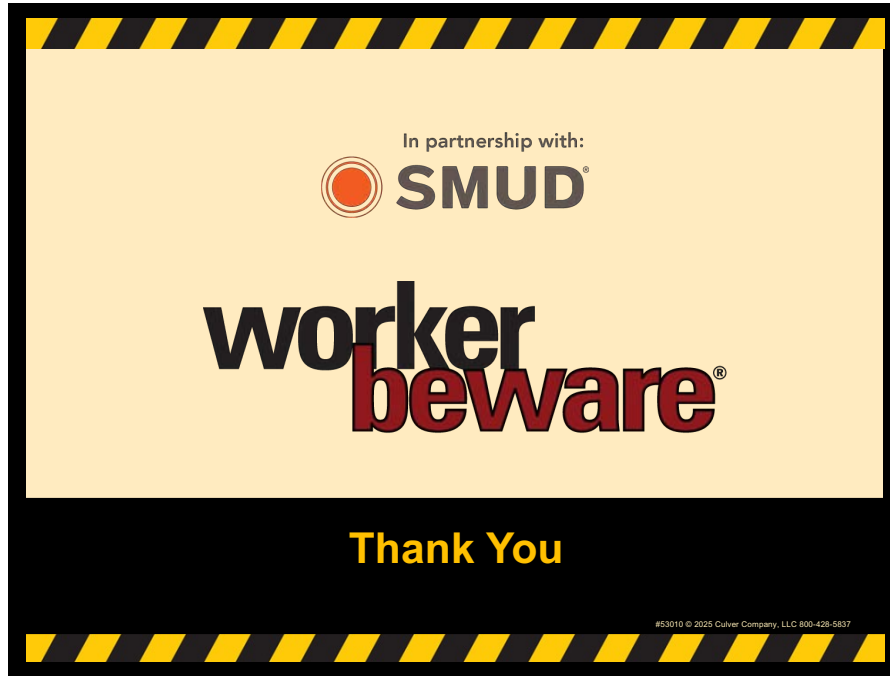
- Identify all power lines and electrical equipment upon arrival at a job site. Recheck the site daily and review your emergency plan.
- Keep yourself and all tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from all overhead power lines carrying up to 50 kV. Higher voltages require greater clearances, as do cranes and derricks used in construction.
- Always use a dedicated spotter.
- If a power line contact occurs, follow proper safety procedures and immediately call 911 and then SMUD at 1-888-456-7683.
- Notify the underground utility locator service by dialing 811 or using the online ticket-entry system before you dig.
- Wait the required amount of time for lines to be marked. In California, that's two full working days, not including the date you notify the 811 service, weekends and legal holidays.
- Respect the marks and dig with care near buried utilities.
- Watch out around pipeline markers. Report any suspicious activity nearby.
- Know the warning signs of a natural gas leak.
- In a natural gas emergency, warn others and leave the area immediately, avoid spark hazards and call 911 and then SMUD's gas emergency number at 1-800-877-7683 immediately.
- If you damage a buried gas line or high-voltage power line, notify the Underground Safety Board within two hours.

Contact Information

- In an electrical emergency, call **911** and then **SMUD** at **1-888-456-7683**.
- In a natural gas pipeline emergency, call **911** and then **SMUD** at **1-800-877-7683**.
- The Underground Safety Board can be reached at **california811.org**.
- For additional information, visit the SMUD website at **smudsafety.com/Worker**.

Last but not least, here is some important contact information to keep handy:

- In an electrical emergency, call 911 and then SMUD at 1-888-456-7683.
- In a natural gas pipeline emergency, call 911 and then SMUD at 1-800-877-7683.
- The Underground Safety Board can be reached at california811.org.
- For additional information, visit the SMUD website at smudsafety.com/Worker.



Thank you for your attention.

Take questions and begin discussion.

Discuss how this information conflicts with what your audience believed about electrical and/or natural gas safety, and ask how they may have put themselves or others at risk in the past. Ask what they would have done differently had they had this training before.

SMUD thanks you for helping to keep workers safe.