

UPDATE PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL

Brainerd Public Utilities is implementing new customer notification software that will allow BPU to notify customers during critical events to keep their customers informed and safe.

When we have a current telephone number we can also let you know when we see that you have water or electric consumption that is higher than normal, or other miscellaneous emergency situations. Please call (218) 825-3203 with your updated home, E-mail address, and cell numbers.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG, BUT BEWARE- Not Every Utility Gets Marked!



Imagine this: you have a project that requires you to make a hole in the ground with a shovel, a trencher, a skid-steer or some other digging tool. You're aware that hitting an underground utility — a pipe, power line, fiber cable, etc. — can be expensive and dangerous. You want to do the right thing and adhere to the law, so you contact Gopher State One Call, generate an excavation ticket, and wait 48 hours for utility people to mark the areas you must avoid. With the utilities marked, the ground surface becomes an explosion of colors, and you're clear to start your project. Right? Wrong!

The law does not require ALL underground utilities to be located; the ones falling in the category of "private facilities" may go unmarked, including some electric and natural-gas facilities. Your in-ground sprinkler system probably will not be marked, along with a substantial portion of the sewer line under your yard. If there are gas or electric facilities buried after the meter ("downstream" from the meter in the directional flow) on your property, they may not be marked, either. These are all examples of "private facilities" that are not owned by the utility, but by the property owner — and therefore not required to be marked by utility employees.

What can you do to assure your personal safety and the integrity of your private facilities as you complete your project? These actions will help:

1. If you are not the original property owner, it may be necessary to contact previous owners to determine whether private facilities were installed prior to your ownership.
2. Be a detective. Look around the proposed excavation site for clues, including: A gas meter with no yellow markings on the property; an electric meter with no red markings on the property; or in-ground sprinkler heads.
3. If you have a city sewer system, the operator is required to mark it in the right-of-way and indicate the spot where it leaves the right-of-way and goes into your property. If it's not marked, call the city and find out where your service line comes off the main sewer pipe and goes into your yard. Use hand tools to dig carefully around the spot where it should be.
4. Look for devices powered by gas or electricity — things like lights, grills, or heated swimming pools — that do not have markings leading to the device.
5. If evidence suggests that private facilities are present in the ground where you will be working, consider hiring a private locator. A private locator is someone who will come to the job site and attempt to locate private, underground facilities.

Knowing what steps to take on your own, even after Gopher State One Call has been contacted, will assure a safe and successful project.



WATER CONSERVATION AT HOME

Conserving water is good for all of us. Using less water means less energy is used to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping maintain our natural resources.

Turn it down. The average bathroom faucet runs at the rate of about 2 gallons of water per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you floss and brush your teeth.



Check hoses. It is a good idea to replace dishwasher and clothes washer hoses every five years. Hoses don't last forever and can create devastating damage-and waste lots of water-if they fail.

Resist the flush. Inside the home, water use is pretty evenly distributed among appliances, but nearly 30 percent is flushed down the toilet. Avoid unnecessary flushing and you'll save big.

Go low-flow. You can save thousands of gallons each year by replacing old toilets with ultra-low flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less.

Sing in the rain. A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10-25 gallons.




Fill 'er up. Running the dishwasher or washing machine when they are only half full uses just as much water as full loads.



Replacing inefficient toilets with **WATERSENSE MODELS** can save **13,000 GALLONS** per year, saving more than **\$140 PER YEAR** in water costs.

look for **WaterSense** MADE BY EPA



Call Gopher State One at 1-800-252-1166 for water & electric locations 48 hours before digging begins.