



Pipeline right-of-way and markers

A pipeline right-of-way is the land governed by an easement agreement between a pipeline operator and a landowner or government agency. The right-of-way allows the operator to access the pipeline for maintenance, emergency response and inspections.

Markers show the approximate location of pipelines and identify the companies that operate them. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers, which is why it's important to always call 811 before digging.

Pipeline Safety Facts

Pipelines are the safest way to transport energy products, including natural gas, crude oil and other fuels. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates pipelines with the help of state partners.

According to government and industry statistics, the most common cause of pipeline incidents is improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline, which is why it's important to call 811 before you dig. Pipeline operators carefully build, maintain and monitor the integrity and security of their lines.

Give the Gift of Energy



NorthWestern Energy Gift of Energy gift certificates are a great way to help a family member, friend, or colleague who may be struggling to pay their energy bill. For more information, visit

northwesternenergy.com/giftofenergy.



Energy efficiency tips for holiday decorating

Don't let your holiday energy consumption lead you to the naughty list. Here are some tips for saving energy over the holidays:

- Decorate with LED holiday lights – LED lights use much less energy and therefore cost less to use than traditional incandescent lights. They also last longer.
- Use a timer – Plug your holiday lights into an automatic timer so that they aren't on all night.
- Turn off ambient lights – If your Christmas tree is all aglow, chances are you don't need all the other lights on in your house.



Be aware of increased scam activity

We've seen an uptick recently in our customers being targeted by impostor utility scams. Here are some important facts to know:

- NorthWestern Energy sends multiple disconnection notices before shutting off service and offers several bill payment options. We never demand prepaid cards.
- If we need to upgrade or replace a piece of equipment, NorthWestern will contact you ahead of time. If there is a charge related to work on equipment, it will typically be included in your monthly bill or paid prior to installation.
- Any over payments will be applied to your NorthWestern Energy account and used to cover future charges.

If you've been contacted by a scammer claiming to be NorthWestern Energy, report it online at NorthWesternEnergy.com/scams



Be cautious around overhead power lines

When putting up outdoor holiday decorations, watch for overhead power lines. Contact with power lines can result in serious injury or even death. Keep yourself, your ladder and any other equipment more than 10 feet from overhead power lines.



**Know what's below.
Tap, Click, or Call
811 Before you dig.**

How to use white markings in winter

Planning a digging project this winter? The first step before calling 811, is to mark your proposed excavation area with white paint. However, that can be tricky in the winter. If there's snow on the ground, pink is also an approved color you can use to mark the proposed excavation.

Once utilities are marked, be sure to hand excavate within 18 inches on each side of markings.