

# THE MPPD MINUTE



May  
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## Plan Ahead to Call Before You Dig

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 8-1-1.

The 8-1-1 “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

**Red** – Electric

**Orange** – Communications, Telephone/CATV

**Blue** – Potable Water

**Green** – Sewer/Drainage

**Yellow** – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line

**Purple** – Reclaimed Water

**White** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 8-1-1, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 8-1-1 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth. For more information about 8-1-1 and digging safety, visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) and [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## MUTUAL AID



MPPD, along with several PPD’s in Nebraska, sent line worker crews to Sidney to help restore power after the April 6th winter storm. Wheat Belt reported they had over 1,100 damaged and downed power poles. As of April 17th all residential services had been restored. Hats off to the MPPD linemen who left their families to help turn the lights back on for the Sidney community.

*Pictured left: Lineman Dalton Miller assists Wheat Belt PPD in restoring power to their customers.*

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