



Area of Continual Excavation Ticket: How to Sign Up

Excavation work, which includes agricultural activities, has required a “call before you dig” ticket since the 1980’s. The “call before you dig” ticket is good for 28 days and must be renewed if work continues. This might not work for most farmers, so members of the agricultural industry fought to create a one-year Area of Continual Excavation (ACE) ticket. This is the first ticket of its kind in the nation. The ACE ticket is only available to California Farmers and certain flood control operators.

THE “CALL BEFORE YOU DIG” PROCESS

Whether you use the new “ACE” ticket or the traditional ticket, follow these steps:

STEP 1: Request a Ticket

Call “811” or use an online portal to contact the “one-call” center and request a ticket :

- www.811express.com (Northern California)
- newtinb.digalert.org/direct (Southern California)

Request either a standard 28-day ticket, or a year-long “ACE” ticket:

28-DAY TICKET:

- Must be requested at least **two days** prior to excavation, not including the day of the request
- Must be renewed within 28 days if work continues.

ACE TICKET:

- Can be requested any time of year convenient for the farmer or flood control agency and is **valid for one year** from date of issuance
- Must be renewed within one year if work continues.

STEP 2: Delineate boundaries of work area in white

Delineate the area IN WHITE using methods such as paint, flags, flour, white buckets, or sand bags.

STEP 3: Wait two days for facility owners to contact you and mark the area

It’s the hardest part!

STEP 4A: High priority pipeline? Have an onsite meeting

The facility owner will contact you if there is a “high priority” facility—usually a gas transmission or petroleum pipeline—within 10 feet of the work area.

- For an onsite meeting, have information available about the size, location of facility if known, type of work to be done, and workers authorized to perform work (including any subcontractors).



Step 4b: No high priority pipeline? Request a meeting, or start work

If the facilities near the work area are not “high priority,” either you or the facility owner may initiate contact to discuss how best to stay safe around the line.

FEATURES OF ACE TICKETS:

ACE tickets have several advantages over the traditional “call before you dig” ticket:

- It’s valid for one year instead of 28 days.
- It benefits you AND your subcontractors.
- If there is a “high priority” facility, the facility owner must send someone to the onsite meeting with knowledge of the location of the facility, such as a superintendent, supervisor, or engineer,
- If you and the facility owner disagree about the location of a “high priority” facility—such as its depth—the facility owner must either provide documentation indicating the facility location or expose the line (you must, of course, have a valid basis for your understanding of the facility location).

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACE TICKET HOLDERS:

- Be willing to have an onsite meeting with a facility operator if they request one,
- If there is a “high priority” facility, you must be able to describe all your farming activities during the duration of the ticket during the onsite meeting,
- If there is a “high priority” facility, you, along with the facility owner, must complete and sign the ACE Agreement Form,
- If there is a “high priority” facility, you must inform everyone working the area, including subcontractors, of the terms of the ACE Agreement Form.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the “Call Before You Dig” process in general visit <https://call811.com/Before-You-Dig>.

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