



## Area of Continual Excavation Ticket Process for Farmers

Excavation work, which includes agricultural activities, has required a “call before you dig” ticket since the 1980’s. Following a fatal gas explosion in 2015 caused by deep ripping over a transmission pipeline in Bakersfield, California lawmakers created a one-year Area of Continual Excavation (ACE) ticket available to farmers and certain flood control operators. The goal was to create a safe and less burdensome option to comply with the “call before you dig” law than the normal ticket process. [This process will be available July 1, 2020.](#)

### **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.

- Online: use [www.811express.com/](http://www.811express.com/) (Northern California) or [newtinb.digalert.org/direct/](http://newtinb.digalert.org/direct/) (Southern California)

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

- Year-long ACE ticket:
  - Can be requested any time of year that is 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
- Traditional 28-Day Ticket
  - Must be requested at least 2 days prior to excavation, not including the day of the request
  - Must be renewed within 28 days 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 OVER TRADITIONAL “CALL BEFORE YOU DIG” TICKETS**

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

- Good for one year instead of 28 days
- Good for 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**

The benefits of ACE tickets also come with new responsibilities.

- 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**

More information about the “Call Before You Dig” process in general:

<https://call811.com/Before-You-Dig>

## **CONTACT**

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## **References:**

- [California Government Code § 4216.10](#)
- [Title 19, California Code of Regulations, §§ 4350, 4351](#) (pending)
- [Title 19, California Code of Regulations, § 4305](#) (pending)