

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Crown utilities urge safety in the final stage of 2014 construction season

As the final push to complete work in the 2014 construction season begins, SaskEnergy, SaskTel and SaskPower are urging contractors and homeowners to remember safe digging practices in the weeks remaining before winter arrives.

Earlier this year the three utility Crowns established a goal to significantly reduce third-party damage to buried electric, natural gas and telecommunications infrastructure. This goal was made to address the rising trend of utility lines being damaged, particularly in new urban neighbourhoods following new home construction.

To date, the Crowns have seen a moderate reduction in underground line hits. While that trend is encouraging, the fall construction period traditionally sees some of the highest damage from unsafe digging activities, particularly in the month of October.

Homeowners and contractors planning any excavation project prior to the onset of winter are reminded to contact Sask 1st Call for underground line locates, and to observe safe digging practices around marked lines.

The Sask 1st Call Safety Patrols will continue their work in the Saskatoon and Regina regions through to the end of October. Patrollers are actively checking with contractors and homeowners to ensure they have contacted Sask 1st Call for line locates and that underground lines have been marked prior to digging projects getting underway. To assist line locate technicians, consider “white lining” your project area using white paint, stakes or flags, prior to contacting Sask 1st Call. In this way, the locator can easily identify where digging is set to occur. This is an industry best practice used by excavators across North America.

To arrange for free locates of underground utility lines, request online at www.sask1stcall.com or by calling 1-866-828-4888.

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