

***There are often deadly hazards lurking underground on excavation sites. Rupturing or breaking underground utilities such as electrical power cables and pipelines can result in serious injuries or even death.***

### **A Worksite Story**

A construction crew was using an auger to dig a hole for anchoring a utility pole support cable. Suddenly the auger hit a small plastic gas line. Escaping gas soon reached a nearby building, where it ignited about 20 minutes later. Four people died and 15 were injured. In addition, three buildings were destroyed and more than a dozen others had extensive damage.

**✘ Are you familiar with the steps you can take to avoid injury around buried utilities on a work site?**

**✘ Have you ever had contact with buried utilities? If so, what happened?**

### **How can we stay safe today?**

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from buried utilities?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA Regulations: 1926.651; 1926.652; 1926.1408

### **Remember This**

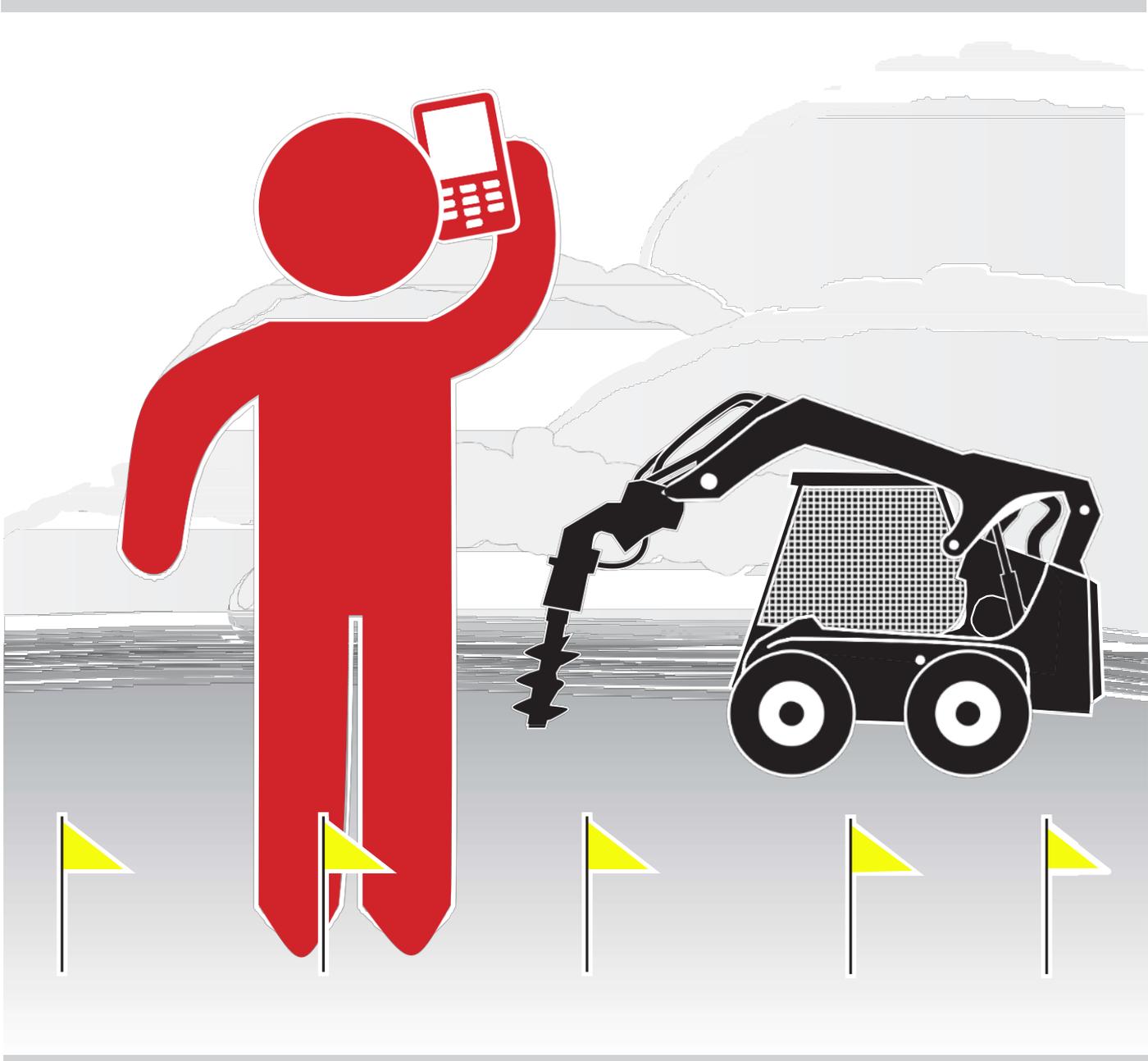
#### **Before digging**

- Look for paint or flags marking locations of electrical lines. Electrical lines should also have a warning device, such as a range control or limit. You should know how each is marked.
- Review marked-out areas. They may not be exact. If not sure, call the utility company to verify before digging.
- Plan to dig by hand when working within 2 feet of a mark-out, to make sure you do not hit a utility line or conduit with heavy equipment. Ask your supervisor to identify the expert who will review the work area before work begins and as needed during your shift.

#### **When digging, look for**

- Signs of previous digging
- Changes in soil types
- Asphalt patches or depressions
- Concrete, plastic, or gravel

If you hit a line, you must report it! If it's a gas line, evacuate everyone, secure the area, and call the fire department.



- ✘ Look for electrical lines and other utilities. Electrical lines should be marked with red paint or flags. Check with your supervisor to confirm the utilities have been properly marked.
- ✘ Look for gas lines. They should be marked with yellow paint or flags.
- ✘ If you hit a line, you must report it! If it's a gas line, evacuate everyone, secure the area, and call the fire department.