



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**<sup>®</sup>

An EDISON INTERNATIONAL<sup>®</sup> Company

## Tips of the Trade



### When You Use Trenchless Technology



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**

In an  
Electrical Emergency,  
Call 911

For Questions About  
Working Near Power Lines  
or to Report an Electrical  
Safety Hazard, Call SCE at  
**1-800-611-1911**

Haga clic aquí para leer  
estos "Consejos del  
oficio" en español

Using a directional drill, auger, or other form of trenchless technology can be like threading a large needle through a maze of existing underground utility lines—while blindfolded! Subterranean smarts and safe drilling practices are the keys to success.

#### Subterranean Smarts

It's always essential to **call 811 before you dig to have underground electric lines and other utilities located and marked**, but you've got to take it a step further when you use trenchless technology:

- **Inform the 811 operator about your equipment.** The more specific you can be about the equipment you will be using, the better they will understand your needs and provide the most accurate information about buried power lines and other utilities. An excavator may use a vacuum excavation device to expose subsurface installations if: we, Southern California Edison (SCE), and other utility operators have marked lines; the excavator has contacted any operator whose subsurface installations may be in conflict with the excavation; **and** we, SCE, have agreed to the use of a vacuum excavation device. An excavator shall inform the 811 operator of his/her intent to use a vacuum excavation device when obtaining a ticket.
- **Request locator marks be placed close together.** This will help you plan for the possibility that an existing utility path might turn unexpectedly.
- **Always wait for lines to be marked before you start to drill.** Allow the utilities at least two working days to locate and mark underground lines.

#### Safe Drilling Practices

Take these steps during your drilling activities to ensure you stay a safe distance away from underground utility lines:

- **Consider soil conditions.** Many factors, including sandy soil or a shallow water table, will affect the depth at which you can safely drill without cave-in worries.
- **Dig potholes and visually monitor your bore head as you cross each buried utility line.**
- **Keep a safe distance. Stay at least 3 feet away from marked utilities.** Watch the drill head cross utility lines during the initial bore and also during back reaming to ensure you maintain this minimum clearance.
- **Calibrate. Be sure to calibrate your bore head and locating**

device before every job.

- **Don't forget the back ream.** Remember, your locating device will monitor the bore head on the pilot pass, but may not be able to monitor the back ream head. Plan accordingly if you have to expand the diameter of your bore before installation, and always observe the bore when crossing a buried facility during the back ream.

### Would You Like to Know More?

We offer electrical safety materials for contract workers. To request materials, please visit [on.sce.com/safetyonthejob](https://on.sce.com/safetyonthejob).

Is there a subject you would like to see covered? Respond to this [email](#) with your suggestions.

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