

As spring is here and summer approaches, many residents will begin home improvement projects on their properties, adding decks or fences, planting trees or shrubs, or planting new flower beds in their front yards. Anytime a shovel goes into the ground Dig Safe must be called. In addition to Dig Safe, all residents in the Town of Essex should also call the Public Works Department to verify the locations of their water and sewer services.

Recently, there was an incident here in Town where a resident broke their water service while landscaping, causing a water shut down within their development and over \$2,000 of repair costs. The resident contacted Dig Safe, but failed to read and/or listen to the disclaimer provided by Dig Safe. The five items in the disclaimer include the following:

- This ticket expires 30 days from the date of issuance.
- There may be non-member utilities in the area that you need to notify.
- Electric and other companies may not mark lines they don't own or maintain. You may want to contact them for more information.
- The excavator is responsible to maintain markings placed by member utilities.
- You are required by law to call 911 if pipeline damage results in a gas release.

The Town of Essex is a non-member utility and Town-owned utilities, such as water and sewer lines, will not be located by Dig Safe. Please contact the Town of Essex prior to landscaping to avoid the loss of municipal dollars and the inconvenience to your neighbors; in certain instances, the Town may bill a property owner for damages.

Public Works Staff recommends reaching out prior to any digging on your property. The contact information for Dig Safe and the Town of Essex Public Works is provided below:

Dig Safe

Phone: 811

Website: <http://www.digsafe.com/>

Town of Essex

(802) 878-1344