

PUBLIC FORUM ON STATE ONE CALL EXEMPTIONS

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West Palm Beach, FL

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Topic List

Agriculture

- Normal Farm Tillage
- Deep Tillage
- Drain Tile

State and Local Government

- Road Maintenance
- Cemeteries
- Landfills

Public

- Gardening
- Landscaping, Decks and Patios

Railroads

- RR signal wires
- Receiving notice



AGRICULTURE

There are 2.2 million farms in the US.
If farm soil tillage is considered excavation,
farmers could be calling One Call Centers
1-4 times/yr.



Agriculture

Approx 300,000 miles natural gas onshore transmission in US

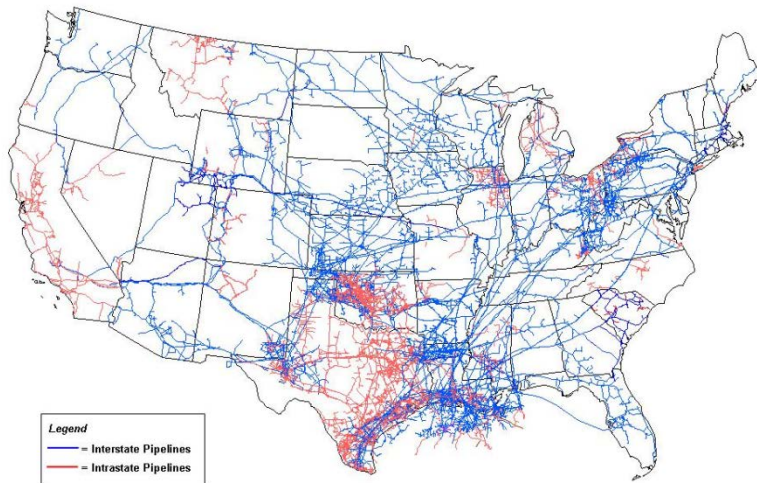
Approx 183,000 miles hazardous liquids pipelines in US

Around 80% of NG transmission is in Class 1/Rural areas

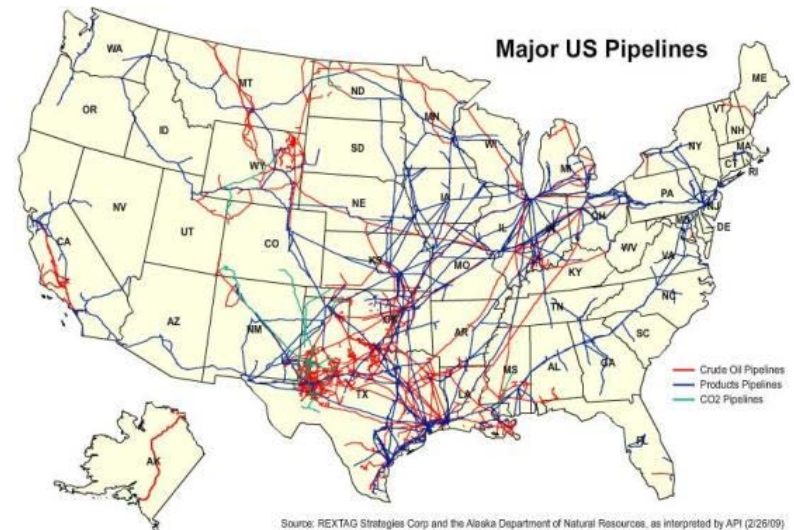
Estimate 50% of rural mileage is tilled agricultural land

193,000 miles of onshore pipeline to flag if agriculture is not exempted – one to four times per year.

(Does not include onshore gathering lines in farmed areas)



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil & Gas, Natural Gas Division, Gas Transportation Information System



Source: REXTAG Strategies Corp and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as interpreted by API (2/26/09)

Agriculture – Normal Tillage

Moldboard Plow – less than 12”



Agriculture – Normal Tillage

Disc – less than 12”



Agriculture – Normal Tillage

Knifing in Fertilizer - Less than 12””

(Anhydrous ammonia, Liquid fertilizer or manure)



Agriculture – Normal Tillage

Chisel Plow – Usually less than 12 but up to 18”



Agriculture – Deep Tillage

Soil Ripper – this type maybe up to 24" deep



Agriculture – Deep Tillage

Soil Ripper – Extreme units can go 4' or more



Tilling vs. Tiling

Tilling – Loosening the soil to provide a seed bed and improve subsurface drainage.

Tiling – Installing perforated pipe in the ground to drain excess soil moisture

TILING

Older Style Wheel Tile Trencher – Depth up to maybe 8 ft.



TILING

Ladder or Chain Trenchers (Vermeer) – Up to 8 ft.



TILING

Tile Plow – Around 4 feet
Individual Farmers May Own These



Agricultural Exemption Considerations

- Sheer farm and mileage numbers make one call notice and marking for all tillage questionable
- Farmers are not going to wait if soil is ready, expect farm organizations to take interest
- Normal farming operations should be exempt (various state laws 12 – 18” depth)
- Drain tile installation and tillage below a specified depth should not be exempt
- If normal farming puts a pipeline at risk the pipe is too shallow and may be in violation of the easement.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reasonable exceptions can be made for:
Road Maintenance

Road maintenance that does not change original grade

- Pothole and emergency pavement repair
- Grading unpaved roads
- Replacing signs at same location and depth

Virtually no threat to underground facilities

Public safety at risk if work delayed

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reasonable exceptions can be made for:
Cemeteries

Would you require a funeral be postponed for the one call waiting period?

Does anyone have facilities in cemeteries that might be endangered?



STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reasonable exceptions can be made for:
Sanitary Landfills

Would you require a landfill call for every day of operation?

Does anyone have facilities in landfills that might be endangered?

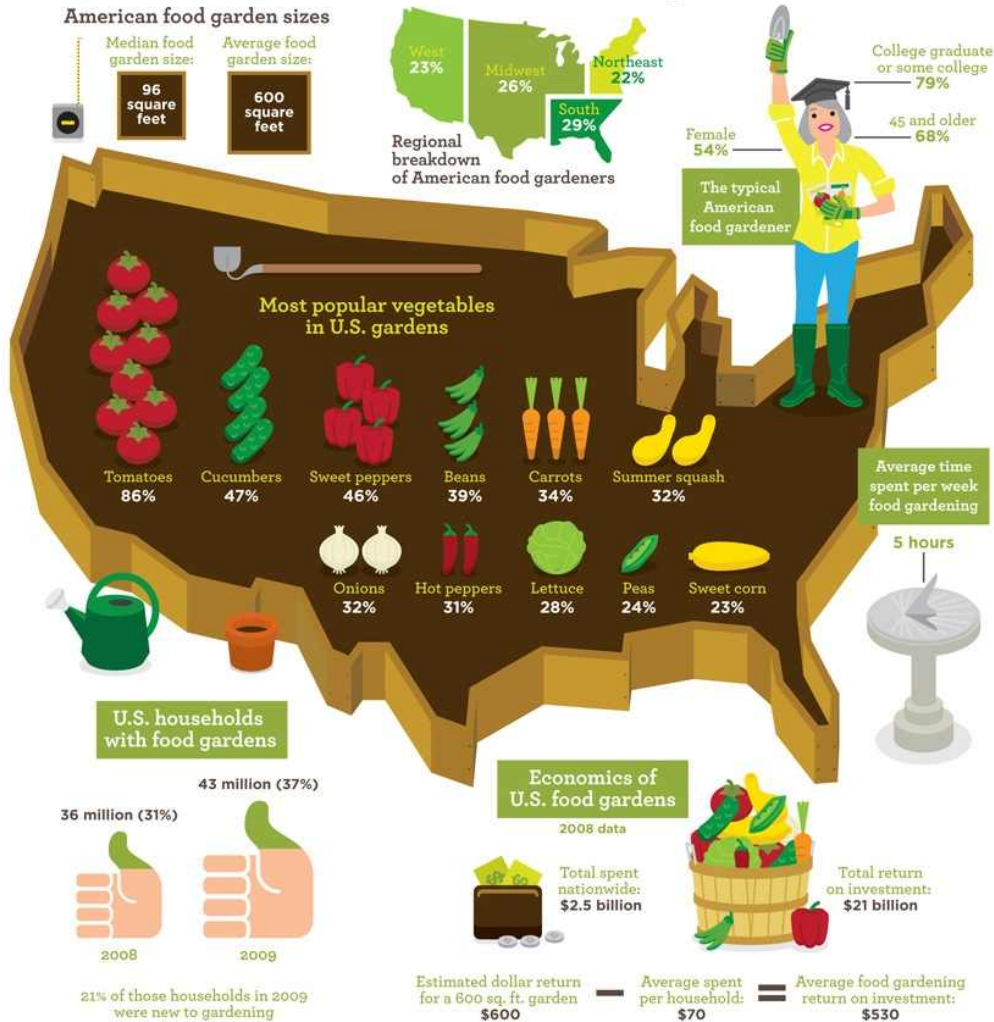


PUBLIC

Excavations that members of the public could perform themselves can pose a risk to underground facilities even if only unmechanized hand tools are used (Landscaping, Planting trees, Decks and Patios)



Home Gardening Don't just go local, grow local.



PUBLIC

But Gardening?

In 2009 43 million households (37%) had a vegetable garden.

Mechanical or hand tilling probably 3-6" typical but could go up to 12" full spade depth.

Should 43 million households call One Call every spring before they plant their garden?

RAILROADS

Railroads may have signal system communications wire/cable infrastructure on RR ROW.

RRs may fall under exemptions for private facilities on owner property – not be One Call members.

RRs may have permit systems for work by others on RR ROW.

Are RR or other facilities in RR ROW being damaged?

TAKEAWAYS

- Targeted exemptions can be practical/realistic/necessary
- Exemptions may reduce other risks to public from delays
- Mechanical excavation is not automatically risky
(Depth and location dependent)
- Hand excavation can be risky
- NEED DATA on exemption consequence, such as:
 - How much pipe is in cemeteries or landfills? How often is pipe in cemeteries or landfills damaged?
 - How often is pipe damaged; by “normal farming” or deep tillage?
 - How often is pipe damaged by gardeners?
 - How often is pipe damaged by sign replacement or on-grade road maintenance?
 - How often is pipe in RR ROW damaged?