

# Understanding your Telephone Bill



Continue to follow along in Tele-Trends each month as we present a series of articles explaining the various fees, funds, taxes and surcharges that appear on your local, land-line phone bill each month.

Regulated local phone companies like Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. are required to collect fees and taxes for state and governmental agencies. This money we collect for these fees and taxes is passed on to the proper entities. Many of these fees are mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and some by state agencies.

Our last segment addressed the **E911 Service Fee** and the **911 Equalization Surcharge**.

*Previous issues of Tele-Trends may be viewed on-line at [www.poka.com](http://www.poka.com).*

## Federal Excise Tax & State Sales Tax

**Federal Excise Tax** – This is a 3% tax mandated by the Federal Government – not the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It is imposed on all telecommunications services, including local telephone service, long distance service and wireless service.

**State Sales Tax** – This is a 6.25% charge mandated by the State of Texas. It is imposed on all telecommunications services, including local telephone service, long distance service and wireless service.

**City & County Sales Tax** – The cities and counties in our service area have elected not to impose a sales tax on telecommunications services. However, Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) purchases & leases, as well as labor charges associated with CPE are not categorized as telecommunications services and are therefore taxed by *certain* cities and counties within our service area. The amount of tax charged varies depending on the specific city or county.

Watch next month's Tele-trends for more information on

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## Don't go digging up trouble ... Make one simple call first.

Before you grab those shovels & post-hole diggers or hop on that backhoe to do any extensive digging or construction, please remember to make one very simple ... yet very important phone call first.

Place a call to Texas One Call –  
**1-800-245-4545**

Calls should be placed to **Texas One Call** 48 hours before you plan to dig. **Texas One Call** will notify the utility companies in your area who then have 48 hours to come out and mark any underground cable that could potentially be cut or dug up.

Calling to have cable located before you dig is a **FREE** service and benefits everyone. No service outages or interruptions to worry about, and it could save you a ton of money.

NOT calling before you dig and cutting a phone or gas line could be extremely costly – not to mention dangerous. Cutting a utility company's cable without having called for a cable locate usually results in you receiving a very hefty repair bill.

**Call Before You Dig ...**

**Texas One Call  
1-800-245-4545**

*It's one call you'll  
be glad you made.*