

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Proclaims April as Indiana Safe Digging Month

INDIANAPOLIS (March 31, 2015) – As spring digging season begins, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) encourages homeowners to call 811 before they dig to prevent property damage, inconvenient outages, injury, and even death.

Governor Mike Pence has issued a [proclamation](#) announcing April as Indiana Safe Digging Month and reminding Indiana homeowners to call 811 before starting any outdoor digging projects.

“Through planning ahead and having underground lines marked for free, homeowners are making an important decision that can keep them and their communities safe and connected to their utilities,” said IURC Chair Carol Stephan.

When homeowners call 811, notification is sent to the appropriate utility companies of the intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint. Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin around marked lines. This service is free to the homeowner.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. And unfortunately, 45 percent of people who plan to dig this year will not call 811 first, despite there being 100 billion feet of utility lines buried underground in the United States, according to a recent Common Ground Alliance survey.

Striking a single line can result in injury, repair costs, fines, and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, necessitates a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, building a deck, and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

Visit www.call811.com for more information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.

About the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and Pipeline Safety

The IURC is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the IURC is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. For more information, please visit www.in.gov/iurc.

The IURC’s Pipeline Safety Division is responsible investigating alleged violations of Indiana's Damage to Underground Facilities Act by professional excavators and reporting its findings to the Underground Plant Protection Advisory Committee, which investigates findings and assesses fines and penalties for damages. For more information about this advisory committee, visit www.in.gov/iurc/2654.htm.

About Indiana 811

811 is the FCC-designated national three-digit number created to eliminate the confusion of multiple “Call Before You Dig” numbers across the country. The quick and efficient one call service will notify the subscribing local utilities, which then send locating technicians to the requested site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines. The call is free of charge in Indiana.

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