

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Today's Date Is A Convenient Reminder To Always Contact 811 Before Digging**

*8/11/22 Is Your Reminder To Call 811 Whenever Digging Is Required*

(Fairfax, Va.) – August 11 is here, and the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) hopes that the 8/11 date on the calendar will serve as a natural reminder for Americans in every state to contact 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked. Every few minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811.

**"Today and every day, it's very easy for professional contractors and homeowners alike to use the free 811 service before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Doug Carlson, NUCA Chief Executive Officer. "Calling 811 or visiting your state's 811 Website is really the only way to know which utilities are buried in your worksite so that you can dig safely."**

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local, regional, or state 811 center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. [Requests can also be made online, too.] Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

811 is a free service, so there is no excuse to not pick up a phone and call your state 811 authorities a few days before any shovel goes into the ground. 811 services are available in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, inconvenient outages, and weighty fines. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants contacting 811 by phone or online. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree, or laying a patio are just some examples of digging projects that require a free 811 request at least a few days before breaking ground.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches or digging in a location that's previously been marked, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Visit **[www.811beforeyoudig.com](http://www.811beforeyoudig.com)** for more information about 811 and safe digging practices..

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### **About The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)**

Founded in 1964, the National Utility Contractors Association represents more than 1,800 U.S. utility and excavation contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who provide the materials and workforce to build and maintain our nation's intricate network of water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, and electric infrastructure. NUCA is found online at [www.nuca.com](http://www.nuca.com), and can be followed on Twitter at **@NUCA\_National**. The association's Twitter hashtags are #NUCAdigs and #WeDigAmerica.