

811 Fact Sheet



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

What is 811?

811 is a new national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, gardeners, landscapers and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

Why call 811?

- **Every** digging project requires a call to 811 – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

How does 811 work?

- One easy phone call to 811 starts the process of getting your underground utility lines marked for free.
- When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, a representative from your local one call center will answer your call. Local one call center operators will ask you for the location of your digging job and notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines within a few days of your call.
- Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.
- Please visit: call811.com for more information about your local one call center.

What happens if I don't call?

- Failure to call before digging results in more than one unintentional hit per minute, which could lead to injury, penalties, repair costs, fines and expensive and inconvenient outages.
- Knowing the approximate location where underground utility lines are buried before each digging project helps to prevent these disasters.
- To learn more, please visit call811.com.