



Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
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Press Release

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PSC Recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month

(Washington, D.C.) – The Public Service Commission of The District of Columbia recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month by reminding District residents to always call 811 two business days before any digging project. The Commission will be promoting National Safe Digging Month by participating in various community and Earth Day events throughout the District. This year’s campaign theme is “Call 811 Before You Dig...Can You Dig It?”

When calling 811, residents and businesses and their contractors are connected to the District One Call Center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground utility lines with flags, paint or both. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Striking a single line can cause injury or death, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

“As April marks the traditional start of digging season, we are using this month to strongly encourage individuals and companies to call 811 before they begin digging,” said Betty Ann Kane, Chairman of the Commission. “By calling 811 to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, residents and businesses and their contractors are making an important decision that can help keep them and their communities safe and connected.”

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, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

For more information about outreach events for National Safe Digging Month, please visit the Commission website at www.dcpsc.org

For more information about digging safely, please visit www.call811.com.

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is an independent agency established by Congress in 1913 to regulate electric, natural gas, and telecommunications companies in the District of Columbia.

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