

For Immediate Release

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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

April is Safe Digging Month: NARUC and State Regulators Want Diggers at Home or Work to Call 811 First

WASHINGTON (April 1, 2025) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and state regulators are urging citizens and businesses to call 811 before engaging in outdoor projects to avoid accidents and utility interruptions as part of Safe Digging Month.

The Common Ground Alliance, sponsor of Safe Digging Month, estimates that more than half of U.S. homeowners plan to complete outdoor do-it-yourself projects that involve digging. However, nearly 27 million Americans do not plan to notify 811 before starting these projects, putting themselves and their communities at risk.

“The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and state regulators jointly oversee thousands of miles of underground pipelines, working to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of vital utility service for customers and commerce. I cannot stress enough the importance of following safety precautions before digging,” said NARUC Committee on Gas Chair and Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank. “With warmer weather upcoming, there is an expected increase in outdoor projects that may involve striking buried utility lines. NARUC wishes to use this opportunity to remind the public to call 811 before undertaking outdoor tasks. Striking or damaging underground gas, power, communications, water and sewer lines risks harm, and costs billions of dollars annually. Calling 811 helps protect the public from avoidable damage.”

According to CGA, many homeowners fail to reach out to 811 because they’re engaged in shallow digging and are unfamiliar with the 811 notification process. Small projects such as planting a garden and installing a mailbox or post light require homeowners to contact 811 because many utility lines are buried just a few inches below ground.

Hitting buried utility lines can be avoided by reaching out to the 811 One–Call service, available in every state, several days in advance of beginning any excavation or digging project, including small yard projects. NARUC and its members will continue to raise awareness on the need for safe digging practices throughout the month of April. Information on each state’s safe digging program and contacts are available at bit.ly/SafeDiggingMap.

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.