

For Immediate Release

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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

April is Safe Digging Month: NARUC and State Regulators Urge Americans to Call 811 Before Digging

WASHINGTON (April 1, 2026) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and state regulators are urging citizens and businesses to call 811 before beginning any outdoor digging projects, as part of National Safe Digging Month this April.

New data from the Common Ground Alliance show that nearly three in four American homeowners (74 percent) plan to complete outdoor digging projects in the next 12 months, representing more than 60 million households. However, an estimated 10 million Americans plan to skip contacting 811 before digging, putting themselves and their communities at risk.

“State regulators and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration jointly oversee thousands of miles of underground pipelines to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of essential utility services that power our homes, businesses, and economy,” said NARUC Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety Chair and Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Kim David. “Because many of these lines are buried just inches below the surface, even routine projects, like planting a garden, installing a mailbox or setting a fence post can pose serious risks. A simple call to 811 before digging is one of the most important steps individuals can take to protect themselves, their property and their community.”

“I cannot stress enough the importance of following safety precautions before digging,” said NARUC Committee on Gas Chair and Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman Steve DeFrank. “With warmer weather approaching, outdoor projects increase, along with the risk of striking buried utility lines. That’s why it’s critical to contact 811 before you dig — no matter how small the project may seem. Striking an underground line can lead to serious injury, dangerous service disruptions and costly repairs. A quick call or click to 811 is one of the simplest steps you can take to prevent these incidents and protect your community.”

According to CGA, many homeowners fail to contact 811 because they believe their projects are too shallow or are unfamiliar with the process. However, reaching out to 811 a few days before digging allows professional locators to mark the approximate location of underground lines, helping to ensure projects can proceed safely.

NARUC and its members will continue to raise awareness about safe digging practices throughout April and beyond. Information on each state’s safe digging program and contacts is 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.