



*Iowa Utilities Board*

**NEWS**

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## **April Is National Safe Digging Month**

*Iowa Utilities Board reminds lowans to always call 811 before digging*

(Des Moines) – The Common Ground Alliance has again designated April as National Safe Digging Month in 2014. The Iowa Utilities Board joins many other state utility commissions and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in promoting Safe Digging Month and emphasizing how important it is for all professional excavators and residents in Iowa to [call 811](#) before starting any digging projects throughout the year.

This one toll-free phone call connects to [Iowa One Call](#), which provides contractors and residents with free locating and marking of underground utility facilities such as electric, gas, telecommunications, cable, water, and sewer, indicating where it is safe to dig.

Iowa law requires that Iowa One Call be contacted at least 48 hours in advance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before beginning to dig. Calling 811 can save lives, protect utility infrastructure, and help prevent injuries, fines, and costly repairs. Iowa's One Call Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to the Common Ground Alliance, a recent national survey revealed that roughly half of Americans are “active diggers” who have done (or are planning to do) some type of digging project at home. Whether you are a professional excavator or an avid do-it-yourselfer, always call 811 before every dig.

On April 10, 2014, Iowa Utilities Board, Iowa One Call, and Common Ground Iowa representatives will participate in a ceremony at the State Capitol with Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, who will sign a Safe Digging Month Proclamation.

Visit [Common Ground Iowa](#) to review a series of educational videos and additional information. Common Ground Iowa is a regional partner of the national Common Ground Alliance, an association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and integrity of utility services by promoting effective damage protection practices.

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*The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all lowans.*

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