



Iowa Utilities Board NEWS

Geri D. Huser, Chair

Elizabeth S. Jacobs, Board Member

Nick Wagner, Board Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2016

Media contact | Don Tormey, 515.725.7347, don.tormey@iub.iowa.gov Web site | <https://iub.iowa.gov>

Iowa Utilities Board reminds communities to be safe and Call 811 prior to any digging projects

April is National Safe Digging Month

(Des Moines) – The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all Iowans. In recognition of April as National Safe Digging Month, the Board is partnering with other state utility commissions, and the [Common Ground Iowa](#) and [Iowa One Call](#) organizations to emphasize how critical it is for professional excavators and Iowa residents to be safe and always [Call 811](#) in advance of starting any digging projects. Calling this toll-free number can save lives, protect underground utility infrastructure, and help prevent injuries, fines, and costly repairs.

Iowa law requires everyone to locate underground utilities before digging. Whether you're planting trees, trenching a field, or digging a building foundation, any person planning to engage in excavation or digging projects are required to provide notice to Iowa One Call at least 48 hours in advance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

Dialing 811 is a free service and the most efficient way to reach the Iowa One Call notification Center, or visit the [Iowa One Call website](#) to prepare and submit 'locate' requests. Calling 811 provides contractors and residents with free locating and marking of underground utility facilities, indicating where it is safe to dig. Iowa's One Call Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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.

###

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

Follow the Board on Twitter: https://twitter.com/iub_now