



Gerri D. Huser, Chair

Richard Lozier, Jr., Board Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2020

Contact | Don Tormey, 515.725.7347, don.tormey@iub.iowa.gov, and iub.iowa.gov

IUB reminds contractors, homeowners to call 811 before making storm repairs that require digging

Rush to repair can be unsafe and damage underground utilities

(Des Moines) – Homeowners and business owners statewide are making property repairs following Iowa’s devastating August 10 derecho. The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) reminds anyone whose restoration efforts involve digging to call 811 or visit the [Iowa One Call website](#) for information on scheduling a utility locate before beginning a project.

The rush to restore power after last week’s widespread storm has led to underground utilities in some areas being damaged. Iowa’s [One Call Law](#) (chapter 480 of the Iowa Code) requires the locating and marking process before excavation starts. Requests to locate utilities should be made a minimum of two days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays) before excavation begins.

When Iowa One Call is contacted, notification is sent to operators with underground facilities in the area where the excavation is planned, including natural gas and power utilities, communications companies, and communities. Within 48 hours of being contacted, a utility will mark its underground facilities with color-coded paint marks or flags or notify Iowa One Call it has no lines in the area.

Property owners who contract with a third party to perform repairs should confirm that the contractor has contacted Iowa One Call before allowing work on the property to begin.

Learn more about safety and damage prevention by visiting the IUB’s [Staying Safe Around Utilities](#) webpage. Information on enforcement of the One Call Law is available on the [Office of the Attorney General website](#).

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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 Iowans.

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