

811 Media Fact Sheet



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

What is 811?

811 is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, landscapers and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

Why call 811?

For Safety's Sake! Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause damage to the environment, serious personal injuries, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially incur fines and repair costs. Contacting Georgia 811 is also the law. www.Georgia811.com

When to Call 811?*

- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubbery
- Installing a sprinkler system
- Pool installation
- Installing a mailbox

* These are a few common examples of when to call. Do-it-yourselfers and contractors should call at least two business days before ANY digging project.

How does 811 work?

- Contacting Georgia 811 at least two business days prior to digging begins the process of getting underground utility lines marked, which is a free service. Dial 811 or log on to www.Georgia811.com and apply with our eTicket.
- Georgia 811 transmits the location and description of the project to the affected member utility companies. These utility companies then send a professional locate technician to identify and mark the approximate location of lines with colored paint or flags.
- Once underground lines have been marked, those wanting to dig will know the approximate location of utility lines and can dig safely.
- Please visit the Georgia Public Service Commission's Web site for more information about Georgia's "Dig Law", the Georgia Facilities Protection Act. <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/>

What happens if people don't call?

- Damage to underground lines can cause harm to the person digging or others and service interruptions. Also, it can create costly repair bills and fines.
- Just under 1,000 damages are reported to Georgia 811 each month.
- Across the US, Two-thirds of homeowners (67 percent) believe they would not hit an unmarked underground utility line and cause a service outage at their own home or a neighbor's home, despite the fact that an underground line is damaged every three minutes nationwide, according to Common Ground Alliance data.
- Knowing approximately where underground utility lines are buried before each digging project helps to prevent these situations.

Why is April so important?

- April is Safe Digging Month in Georgia by declaration of the Governor and it is National Safe Digging Month. This observance recognizes the importance of calling before all outdoor digging projects.
- April 2012, Georgia 811 took 74,693 requests to have underground utility lines located.
- In 2012, Georgia 811 took 858,000 locate requests. This is a 2% increase over 2011.
- For each request, on average, 8 member companies were notified that digging would be taking place in their service area.

Who is Georgia 811?

Established in 1974, Georgia 811 is a non-profit organization comprised of over 775-member utility companies, including cities and counties throughout Georgia that benefit through reductions in lost time, accidents, service interruptions and costly repairs.

Georgia 811 has been an industry leader in preventing damage to underground utility facilities and promoting safety and efficiency through high quality and economical notification services. In addition Georgia 811 provides training and education while encouraging compliance with all applicable laws.

Georgia 811 is dedicated to keeping Georgia safe and connected.