



## PRESS RELEASE

### MAY PROCLAIMED “DIG SAFELY” MONTH

#### Governor Perdue Urges Greater Public Awareness for Safe Digging Practices

ATLANTA – May 17, 2006 – In a state where the construction and development industry continues to grow at a record pace, it is imperative to protect the underground utility infrastructure that is vital to the safety of our communities. To that end, Governor Sonny Perdue has officially proclaimed May as “Dig Safely Month in Georgia”. The official proclamation reiterates the critical need for contractors and homeowners to observe Georgia’s “Dig Safely” laws. Dig Safely is a nationwide educational campaign established to enhance safety, environmental protection and service reliability by reducing underground facility damage.

The proclamation underscores Georgia’s law, which mandates that all excavators, including private citizens and public contractors, notify the Utilities Protection Center of Georgia (UPC) at least 48-hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before digging underground or working within ten feet of overhead utility lines.

“We are gratified that Governor Perdue has chosen to highlight utility safety by proclaiming May as Dig Safely Month,” said Claudette Campbell, executive director of the UPC. “A call to the UPC before a digging project commences can save lives and protect utility services. Professional locators will identify the underground facilities and provide the marks that help contractors and homeowners recognize where they can dig safely.”

Established in 1974, the UPC is a non-profit organization comprised of over 700-member utility companies throughout Georgia that benefit through reductions in lost time, accidents, service interruptions and costly repairs. It is estimated that the UPC notification system has saved its member utilities and the public at-large from hundreds of millions of dollars in expensive repairs during its years of public service to the citizens of Georgia. The program is credited with helping to prevent countless potentially life threatening situations and the dangers and inconveniences associated with service interruptions.

The UPC strives to encourage four Dig Safely practices: 1) Call before you dig. 2) Wait the required amount of time for marking. 3) Respect the marks. 4) Dig with care.

The UPC, keeping Georgians safe and connected, has a toll free number (1-800-282-7411) for immediate notification from any part of the state. Callers in the Atlanta area may call 770-623-4344. For more information, visit the UPC of Georgia web site at [www.gaupc.com](http://www.gaupc.com).

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