



# Public Service Commission of West Virginia

Contact: Susan Small, 304-340-0820, [ssmall@psc.state.wv.us](mailto:ssmall@psc.state.wv.us)



For Immediate Release

August 10, 2015

## PSC Promotes National 811 Day – Call Before You Dig

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia reminds residents to call 811 before they dig on Tuesday, August 11 (8-11) and every other day. Whether you are installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree or laying a patio, any project that requires digging also requires a call to West Virginia 811 before you begin.

As autumn approaches and people hurry to finish their outdoor projects, the 8-11 calendar date serves as a natural reminder to call West Virginia 811 a few days before beginning any digging project. The depth of utility lines varies and lines can move when the ground freezes and thaws or an area receives a large amount of rain. The risk of hitting an underground utility exists, even when digging only a few inches. Striking a pipeline, wire or cable can cause personal injury or death and may result in costly repairs, fines or inconvenient outages.

When utility customers call West Virginia 811, the appropriate utility companies are notified of their intent to dig. Within 48 hours, professional locators from each company are sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags and paint. Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin.

There is no cost to the customer to use this service.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, we want to make homeowners and professional contractors aware of the danger of striking utility lines when digging. We urge them to call 811 before digging to eliminate that risk. Failure to call before digging has the potential for catastrophic consequences, and we do not want any West Virginians to become part of a tragic statistic,” said Michael Albert, Chairman of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. “A free call to 811 can protect citizens working on any project that involves digging as well as the utility lines buried underground.”

Call 811 or 800-245-4848 before every digging project. For more information about West Virginia 811, visit [www.wv811.com](http://www.wv811.com) or [www.psc.state.wv.us](http://www.psc.state.wv.us).

###