



Public Service Commission of West Virginia



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The Public Service Commission Urges Citizens to Call 811 Before You Dig

April is Safe Digging Month, so as you consider outdoor home improvement projects such as planting trees or shrubs, installing a fence or mailbox post, digging a French drain, building a deck or patio or putting in a garden, the Public Service Commission urges you to call 811 before digging. The free utility line location service protects you and your neighbors' safety and the integrity of underground utility lines near your home. Remember that utility lines, including water, sewer and gas pipelines as well as communication lines can be just a few inches below the surface because of erosion and other topography changes. If outdoor projects that require digging are in your spring plans, call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities increases the likelihood of unintentional damage, service disruptions, costly repairs, serious injuries and even death. Don't assume you know where the utility lines are located. When you call 811 you will be connected to a local notification center that will take your information and communicate it to utility companies in your area. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint or flags of various colors marking the different utilities. After the marking has been done you can begin your project with confidence. In West Virginia, you can also call 800-245-4848 or visit www.WV811.com for more information.

The Public Service Commission urges citizens to always:

- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for all appropriate utility companies to mark the approximate location of buried lines.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor is doing the work, confirm that a call to 811 has been made. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.
- If you do hit a buried utility line, especially gas, call 911 immediately.

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