



**JULIE, INC. LAUNCHES 811 “CALL BEFORE YOU DIG” NUMBER TO HELP
SAVE LIVES AND PROTECT UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Statewide Campaign Offers Safety Tips

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kevin T. Chmura

815/741-5005

chmura@illinois1call.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS – JULIE, Inc., also known as the Illinois One-Call System, announced the launch of a new national 811 “Call Before You Dig” number to help prevent homeowners and professional excavators from damaging underground utility lines while digging and causing injury or service outages.

"Knowing where utility lines are buried before each digging project helps protect those who dig from injury, expense and penalties," said Mark Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "One easy phone call to 811 will get the approximate location of underground utility lines marked for free."

In addition to JULIE’s existing telephone number (800-892-0123), 811 is a new FCC-designated national N-11 number that will assist excavators with reaching the one-call center. This quick and efficient one-call service will notify the appropriate member utilities, who then send locators or locate technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines for free.

"Safe digging is no accident. Regardless of the project size or depth, always call 811 before you dig," Frost continued. "Call center representatives at JULIE are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

SAFETY TIPS

Today, more member utility companies that supply power, gas, water and telecommunications are delivering these services underground. Following are a few safety tips when planning outdoor projects:

- ❖ Call JULIE (simply call 811 or 800-892-0123) before you dig;
- ❖ Wait the required amount of time (two working days);
- ❖ Respect the marks; and
- ❖ Dig with care.

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TYPES OF OUTDOOR PROJECTS

For homeowners or contractors considering any improvements or repairs, following a few precautions can help avoid a painful and costly accident. Common examples of homeowner projects that require a call to JULIE before digging include putting up a fence; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck or room addition; preparing a new garden area; or planting trees, bushes or shrubs.

JULIE, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that serves as a notification service for underground facility owners, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site. JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground facilities.

Established in 1974, JULIE represents more than 1,700 utility members. For a copy of JULIE's Homeowner's Guide with additional safety tips, including the meaning of the different color flags and marks used by each utility locator type, visit www.illinois1call.com.

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