



JULIE, INC. SAFETY CAMPAIGN OFFERS SUMMER TIPS

Illinois One-Call System Receives Record Number of Locate Requests in May

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOLIET, IL – While preparing for an outdoor graduation party, a homeowner recently damaged an underground utility line when he drove an eight inch stake into the ground while setting up a tent in his yard. Unfortunately, the party was over before it even started because he failed to make a free three-digit call to JULIE, Inc.

As people spend time working and entertaining outdoors this summer, JULIE, Inc. is reminding homeowners and professional excavators to call the Illinois One-Call System before starting all digging projects, including any plans that involve drilling or inserting tent posts and stakes into the ground for parties and events.

“Many homeowners are undertaking beautification projects and preparing for parties in their yards during the summer months,” said Mark A. Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. “If the planning involves any type of digging, regardless of the project size or depth, a call to JULIE at 811 should be on top of every priority list. Call center representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist with the quick and easy locate request process.”

When planning any outdoor projects, JULIE, Inc. offers the following tips to keep families safe this summer:

- ❖ 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.

Representatives also announced recently that the Illinois One-Call System broke its single month call volume record when it received a record 149,286 underground utility locate requests from professional excavators and homeowners in May. Compared to the previous record month, this total represents an increase of more than six percent.

In addition to JULIE’s existing telephone number (800-892-0123), 811 is a new number that will assist excavators with reaching the one-call center. This quick and efficient service notifies the appropriate member utilities, who then send locators or locate technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines at no cost.

Established in 1974, the not-for-profit organization represents over 1,700 members and offers a free guide that includes additional tips to help homeowners enjoy a safe summer. For a copy of this guide, an explanation of the color-code markings and more information about the one-call process, visit www.illinois1call.com.