



JULIE, INC. ENCOURAGES FARMERS TO DIG SAFELY
*Illinois One-Call System Promotes Safe-Digging Practices During
National Agriculture Week*

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JOLIET, ILLINOIS – On the farm, excavation is a way of life. During National Agriculture Week (March 16-22), JULIE, Inc. reminds farmers in Illinois to be aware of critical underground utility facilities, such as rural water, fiber optic, electric, pipeline and high-pressure gas distribution systems, on their property.

“Projects such as deep ripping and sub-soiling can create safety hazards due to the depth of the operations,” said Kevin Chmura, director of public relations at JULIE, Inc. “The first step when planning any digging project, regardless of its size, is to simply call JULIE at 811.”

Utilities can be buried at various depths beneath farm fields. While the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act does not require a call to JULIE for routine farm tillage operations, there are farm-related projects that do require notification. Tile plowing, building waterways and setting posts are all examples of deeper excavation projects requiring a call to the Illinois One-Call System.

“Whether you are a farmer, homeowner or professional excavator, digging without knowing where it is safe can cause tremendous property and environmental damage and loss of lives,” Chmura continued. “There is no reason to take a chance. Representatives at JULIE are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

As one of the largest industry one-call systems in the nation, JULIE, Inc. annually receives 1.2 million calls. In addition to JULIE’s existing telephone number (800-892-0123), 811 is a new number that will assist farmers, homeowners and professional excavators with reaching the one-call center in Illinois. 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.

National Ag Day takes place on the first day of spring as a way to celebrate American agriculture and the farmers who help provide the food, fiber, shelter, energy and other materials we use on a daily basis.

Established in 1974, JULIE, Inc. represents more than 1,700 members and offers a free agriculture guide. For a copy of this helpful resource, an explanation of the color-code markings and more information about the one-call process, visit www.illinois1call.com.

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