

SAFE DIGGING IS NO ACCIDENT

JULIE, Inc. Marks 35 Years of Damage Prevention

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2009

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JOLIET, IL – As JULIE, Inc. marks 35 years of damage prevention this month, the Illinois One-Call System’s safety and education initiative raises awareness about the importance of contacting the not-for-profit organization before starting any type of digging projects. Homeowners can reach JULIE anytime by 1) calling 811 or 2) going online at www.illinois1call.com and entering their own locate requests.

“The primary reason for damages to underground utility lines is not contacting JULIE before digging,” said Kevin Chmura, director of public relations for JULIE, Inc. “This is a free service, so there is no reason to take a chance. Notifying JULIE should be a priority for every project, including the installation of tents for parties and other special events.”

Common Types of Homeowner Projects

With a growing trend of do-it-yourselfers focusing on outdoor beautification and home improvement projects, projects that require contacting JULIE include planting trees, bushes or shrubs; putting up a fence or tent; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck; or preparing a new garden or landscape area.

Here’s how the process works. To ensure that underground utility lines in the work area are marked, simply call 811 (or 800-892-0123) or enter an E-Request at www.illinois1call.com at least two working days before digging. JULIE will arrange for its members to have the underground lines at the project site marked, free of charge, so that homeowners and contractors can dig safely. JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground lines.

“Safe digging is no accident. The impact of striking a utility line can take a staggering toll, in terms of environmental or property damage, costly delays, liability, personal injury and even loss of life,” continued Chmura.

Based in Joliet, JULIE, Inc. represents 1,760 members and annually receives 1.1 million locate requests. Since its inception in 1974, JULIE has logged more than 20 million locate requests and its annual call volume makes it one of the largest industry one-call systems in the country. Because one call to JULIE results in communication with multiple members, notifications to JULIE, Inc. last year resulted in 6.4 million messages being transmitted to members.

For a free copy of JULIE’s Homeowner’s Guide, an explanation of the color-code markings and information about safe digging practices, visit www.illinois1call.com.

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