



The Underground Connection

MAY 2018

REMINDERS FOR SPRING PROJECTS

With warmer temperatures, eager homeowners are gearing up to start outdoor digging projects. Before reaching for that shovel to start digging, JULIE urges homeowners to know what's below and always notify the Illinois One-Call System first. [Learn 5 expert tips for creating a spring vegetable garden.](#)



"The results of a recent national survey by the [Common Ground Alliance](#) revealed that 36 percent of homeowners who plan to dig this year will put themselves and their communities at risk by not calling a state one-call center, like JULIE, at least two days beforehand to learn the approximate location of underground utility lines," said Kevin Chmura, director of public relations for JULIE, Inc. "Across the country, every nine minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without calling 8-1-1 first."

Projects requiring notification to JULIE include, but aren't limited to: planting flowers, trees or shrubs; installing a fence, swing set, new garden or mail box post; adding a pool, pond or fountain; and building a deck. As an important reminder for upcoming parties and events, plan ahead and notify JULIE if you are drilling or installing posts and stakes for tents.

Six of every 10 requests are now entered directly online with no time waiting on hold for a call center agent during peak periods. With significant increases in call volume at our center this spring, [E-Request](#) is a fast and convenient option that is available 24/7. [Click here to enter your own locate request via our convenient self-service option.](#)

If you choose to begin your project over the weekend, remember to always provide at least two business days notice and notify JULIE no later than Wednesday at 4 p.m. This is a free service.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Playing It Safe Fair

May 19
Champaign
Pick up free seed packets.
[Get the details.](#)

Get Growing Weekend

May 19 - 20
Chicago Botanic Garden
[Learn more.](#)

Amazing Arachnids

Opens May 26
Brookfield Zoo
Check out JULIE's Dig Box.
[Check it out.](#)

Memorial Day

May 28
JULIE Holiday
[Click here for details.](#)

AMAZING ARACHNIDS

Join us for an aMAZEing time weaving your way through a new summer exhibit at Brookfield Zoo —Amazing Arachnids! The interactive and engaging experience opens May 26, featuring two components: The Art and Science of Arachnids and Mission Safari. While you are there, check out the Dig Box sponsored by JULIE. [Learn more about the exhibit.](#)



7 THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE INSTALLING A FENCE

There are numerous reasons to build a fence. A new fence can add privacy to your yard, increase property value and provide an extra measure of security. It may seem like an ambitious project at first, but planning is half the battle. Once you have a set plan in place and permits in hand, the remainder of the project will come together rather easily. First, pre-mark your project area with white paint and/or flags before notifying JULIE. Once your project area has been pre-marked, notify JULIE to have your lines located for free by our members

Become familiar with the most common mistakes so you can avoid them. [Besides materials, types of fences and design, consider the following 7 tips.](#)

PARTNERS IN SAFETY

One of the most common misconceptions is that JULIE personnel actually mark or locate utility underground utility lines. In fact, each JULIE member is responsible to locate and mark their own underground lines with paint or flags within two business days required by law (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). The [APWA color code](#) illustrates the colors each member uses when staking, painting and or flagging the location of a buried line. As a not-for-profit with nearly 1,900 members, JULIE does not own, operate or locate any underground lines.

"Even if you are digging in the same location as a previous project or assume that you know the location of your underground utility lines, you must notify JULIE first," said Barb Owen, JULIE's Public Relations Manager. "Digging just a little to the left or right or a little deeper can damage an underground utility line or cause injury. There is no reason to take a chance."

JULIE's members are only required to mark the lines that they own, not privately installed or owned lines. Privately owned lines may include electric and gas lines to a garage or workshop. [Learn more about privately owned lines.](#)

