

PREVENT SERVICE OUTAGES AND INJURIES

APRIL 2019

Enter an E-Request

In observance of National Safe Digging Month in April, JULIE today announced results from a recent national survey. The results revealed that 42 percent of homeowners who plan to dig this year for projects like landscaping, installing a fence or mailbox, or building a deck, pond or patio and other DIY projects, will put themselves, their families and their communities at risk by not calling 811 at least two days beforehand to learn the approximate location of underground utility lines. This is a free call and service. [Here are the 4 most common myths for not contacting JULIE.](#)



“An underground utility line is damaged during a digging project once every few minutes,” said Kevin Chmura, Director of Public Relations at JULIE. “Calling JULIE before any planned home improvement projects that require digging – including common landscaping projects like planting trees and shrubs – is critical to preventing incidents like service outages and serious injuries. Every project, no matter how large or small, requires a call to JULIE.”

In addition, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is joining Governor JB Pritzker to increase awareness of the “Call 811” public safety initiative. Call JULIE anytime, day or night, at 811 or [click here to conveniently enter your own online request.](#)

If you are planning to visit your local garden or home improvement center this weekend (or any weekend), notify JULIE no later than Wednesday at 4p. State law requires the person doing the digging to contact JULIE at least two business days (excludes weekends and holidays) before putting a shovel in the ground. Locate requests received after 4p are processed as if received at 8a the next business day. JULIE’s call center agents are available to receive and process locate requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

VISIT US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Brick Safari Exhibit
Brookfield Zoo
May 11 - September 29
JULIE is a proud sponsor. [Click here for details.](#)

Get Growing Plant Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
May 17 - 18
JULIE is a proud sponsor. [Learn more about this event.](#)

DIG SMART MINUTE

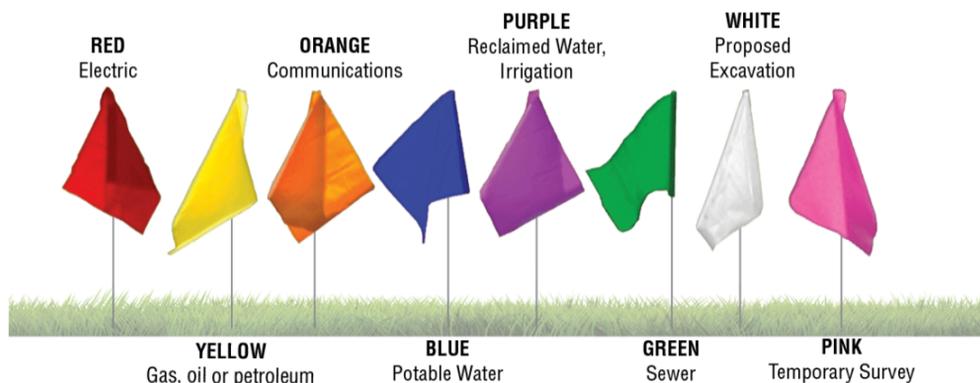
Each month, JULIE brings you quick and useful gardening and landscaping ideas for in and around your home. [Check out the latest edition of our new Dig Smart Minute video](#) with helpful tips from Tony Abruscato, Director of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show.

JULIE UNVEILS NEW SELF SERVICE OPTION

Safe digging starts with you. JULIE’s new and improved [E-Request](#) self-service program is a popular choice for homeowners and contractors with single-site locate requests. More than 60 percent of locate 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 during the spring, this fast and convenient option is available 24/7. No training is needed. [Learn more about E-Request or enter a request.](#)

SIGNS OF SPRING

Have you noticed more small flags in your neighborhood? That’s another sign of spring. After you have notified JULIE, each utility 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 [color code](#) illustrates the colors each member uses when staking, painting and/or flagging the location of a buried line.



JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services. As an important personal and home safety reminder, locators from member companies rarely need access into your home to complete a locate request and should always have proper identification clearly visible.

Our members are only required to mark the lines that they own, [not privately installed or owned lines](#) such as electric and gas lines to a garage or workshop, sprinkler systems and ornamental lighting. [Learn more about what happens after contacting JULIE.](#)

5 TIPS FOR A BACKYARD GARDEN

As the cost of living rises, so does backyard gardening. More homeowners are choosing to grow their own food for numerous reasons. Backyard gardens can slash your grocery bill, give you more control over the types of fertilizers that come into contact with your food and make for a great hobby! A recent study by the National Gardening Association found that one in three households now grow their own fruits and vegetables. The top three reasons given for planting a garden were to produce better tasting food, lower grocery bills and grow higher quality food. Whatever your reasons are for planting a garden, don’t reach for the shovel just yet! [Consider these tips for planting a successful garden.](#)

