



## JULIE CELEBRATES SAFE DIGGING MONTH

**JOLIET, IL** – April marks Safe Digging Month in Illinois, reminding homeowners and professional excavators to contact JULIE before every digging project this spring, regardless of the size or depth. Putting up a fence, installing a mailbox post, building a deck or patio and planting trees and shrubs are all examples of projects that require a notification to JULIE first. This is a free service.

Striking a buried utility line can cause injury, repair costs, penalties and inconvenient outages. Here are five important steps before putting a shovel in the ground:

1. Pre-mark the dig site with white paint or flags.
2. Go to [www.JULIEBeforeYouDig.com](http://www.JULIEBeforeYouDig.com) or call 8-1-1 anytime to submit your locate request;
3. Wait the required amount of time (two business days);
4. Respect the marks; and
5. Dig with care.

Member utilities have two business days to respond to your request. Notifications received after 4 p.m. are processed as received at 8 a.m. the next day. So if you want to start your outdoor project on the weekend, contact JULIE before 4 p.m. on Wednesday. JULIE's call center agents are available to receive and process requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-Request is a free, self-service option available anytime at [www.JULIEBeforeYouDig.com](http://www.JULIEBeforeYouDig.com).

Nationwide, more than 49.3 million Americans will put themselves, their families and their communities at risk by not contacting their local 811 Center before digging. As Illinois' FREE notification service to prevent underground utility line damages, JULIE is dedicated to keeping homeowners, landscapers, contractors, professional excavators...and the entire community...safe. Based in Joliet, the not-for-profit organization represents 1,980 members and covers Illinois, outside the city of Chicago. JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services. For an explanation of the color-code markings, DIY project tips and information about the process, visit [www.JULIEBeforeYou.com](http://www.JULIEBeforeYou.com).

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