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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **AUG. 11 (8/11) SERVES AS CONVENIENT REMINDER FOR LOUISIANA RESIDENTS TO ALWAYS CONTACT 811 BEFORE DIGGING**

*Louisiana 811 encourages people to make a free request at least two business days  
before digging to avoid damaging buried utilities.*

**Baton Rouge, LA – August 5, 2020** – Aug. 11 is almost here, and Louisiana 811 hopes that the 8/11 date on the calendar will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked. With more people at home during pandemic restrictions, and summer a peak time to work on home improvement projects, it's more timely than ever that residents remember to dig safely.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Louisiana 811, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. [Requests can also be made online at [www.louisiana811.com](http://www.louisiana811.com).] Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

Every few minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, inconvenient outages and fines. With more people staying home and relying on their utilities to work and communicate, inconvenient outages are important to avoid. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants contacting 811 by phone or online. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are just some examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

“On Aug. 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 service before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Cole Vanderlick, Manager-Damage Prevention for Louisiana 811. “Especially at a time when we’re relying on important utilities to connect us and keep us safe at home, calling 811 or visiting [www.louisiana811.com](http://www.louisiana811.com) is really the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so that you dig safely.”

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches or digging in a location that's previously been marked, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or [www.louisiana811.com](http://www.louisiana811.com) for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.

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