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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National 811 Day on August 11th Is a
Reminder to Always Call 811 Before Digging**

Protect Yourself and Stay Safe While Digging

Whether you are a “do-it-yourself” homeowner or a contracted professional, before starting landscaping or home improvement projects, it is essential to protect yourself and stay safe when digging.

Most people are surprised to learn that there are more than 100 billion feet of underground utilities in the U.S. This equates to more than one football field’s length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the country, according to Louisiana One Call, an organization dedicated to protecting the safety of people who dig near underground utility lines.

Every six minutes in the U.S., an underground utility line is damaged because someone did not call 811, the national “Call Before You Dig” phone number, or connect online at www.call811.com.

Each year, August 11 (8/11) is a reminder to dig safely and lawfully. It’s important to dial 811 or connect online to have the approximate location of underground utilities and pipelines marked, whether you’re installing a fence, deck or swimming pool; planting a tree; or beginning any excavation project at home or on your property.

Protect yourself and those around you from injury by contacting 811. Not only is it the law in Louisiana, but also knowing where pipelines and underground utility lines are buried prevents unintentional damage, service interruptions, potential fines and costly repairs.

(MORE)

You must contact 811 every time, even if you have done so previously for a similar project, as the depth of utilities can vary, and there may be multiple utilities located in the same area.

Contacting 811

When you contact 811, information will be collected about your digging plans, and local pipeline and utility companies will be notified about your project.

Representatives will be sent to mark the approximate location of underground utilities using color-coded paint, flags or stakes. If there are no underground utilities in the area, they will mark “clear.”

The advance notice required to have underground utilities marked varies by state. Louisiana requires 48 to 72 hours (excluding weekends, holidays and the day the call was made).

Planning Your Project

- Regardless of the depth of your digging or your familiarity with the property, always contact 811 before starting a project that involves digging.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm they have done so. Don't allow work to start until all utilities have been marked.
- After you have waited the required time for markings, if utilities have not been marked, you must contact 811 again to check the status of your request before digging. Also confirm whether the markings have an expiration date and when they will need to be re-marked.
- If your project is located near the paint, flags or stakes, contact the underground operator for the specific steps you should take.

Protect your safety, the safety of the community and the environment by digging with care.



Locator of the Year Award!

Nominate at: www.louisiana.damagepreventionsummit.com/locatornomination

Louisiana 811 Locator of the Year Award
ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2018

Nominations now being accepted! Excavators and member utilities, this is your chance to recognize a locator who has done an excellent job for you.

Tell us why your nominee is the best of the best! Simply complete a nomination form and we'll take care of the rest. Check out the information below, then nominate at the link above.

Note: Nominations must come from an excavator or member utility company that a locator has worked with, not from the locator's company. The intent of this program is to honor the great work locators have done in the field for their customers.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 in Baton Rouge during lunch at The Summit, Louisiana's annual damage prevention event for excavators, public works and other industry stakeholders.

Questions about the nomination process?

Email Brent Saltzman at brent@laonecall.com or call (225) 275-3700, ext. 404.

Prizes (3 divisions; small member company, large member company and contract locator)

\$250 cash

LA 811 ice chest, shirt and various promotional items

Winner's Plaque

Bragging rights and recognition through LA 811 magazine, Facebook and newsletter. News releases across the state.

Entrance for you and one guest to the Louisiana Damage Prevention Summit.

Winners will also be featured in appropriate industry publications.

ELIGIBILITY

Locators must be employed by a Louisiana 811 member, contract locator or associate member and then meet the following criteria:

- Minimum 2 years locating experience in Louisiana
- Zero at-fault damages for 90 days before the nomination
- Zero safety violations for 90 days before the nomination
- Established proactive working relationships in damage prevention

Eligibility criteria will be verified by locator's supervisor.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Edwards Proclaims April Safe Digging Month

Baton Rouge, LA - March 2017 – Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has proclaimed the month of April as “Safe Digging Month” in Louisiana as part of a nationwide safety awareness campaign to draw attention to the thousands of miles of buried infrastructure throughout our state and the importance of safe excavation.

It is extremely important that everyone dial 811 before they dig so that operators of underground utilities and pipelines can mark the location of buried lines to make them easier to avoid. Louisiana One Call answers these calls and notifies member operators of nearby underground facilities free of charge. Louisiana One Call provides the same service via the Internet at www.laonecall.com

The issue is so important that state law requires all excavators and demolishers to notify Louisiana One Call before they begin work. The law applies to individuals as well as contractors, municipalities and others. Failure to call can subject the excavator to fines and liability for damages to buried infrastructure.

Once again this year, Louisiana One Call and media outlets throughout the state are cooperating to publish and broadcast public service announcements this spring asking everyone to “Call 811 Before You Dig.”

Whether you’re digging a garden, putting up a fence or building a highway, the first step is a call to 811 so that professional locators can mark the location of buried lines. It is easy, free, and it helps prevent service interruptions and personal injuries.

- Call two full workdays before you begin
- Wait for the site to be marked
- Respect the marks
- Always dig with care, especially near the marks



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Governor Edwards Proclaims April Safe Digging Month
ULM will host “Digger’s Night Out” Thursday, April 6**

Baton Rouge, LA – April 3, 2017 – Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has proclaimed the month of April as “Safe Digging Month” in Louisiana as part of a nationwide safety awareness campaign to draw attention to the thousands of miles of buried infrastructure throughout our state and the importance of safe excavation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the ULM School of Construction, in conjunction with the Ouachita Joint Utility Council, will host its 16th annual Digger’s Night Out to raise awareness among those in the industry of the risks involved in any excavation project.

Digger’s Night Out is geared toward Louisiana job foremen and operators - those individuals who actually do the digging for excavation operations. A brief program about underground damage prevention will be presented. A buffet style dinner will be provided, and door prizes will be given out.

The program will take place on the 7th floor of the ULM library (enter off DeSiard Street). Registration is from 5:50 pm to 6:00 pm or can be made online at rsvp@laonecall.com

ABOUT SAFE DIGGING MONTH:

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(MORE)

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September 8, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After Harvey, Safety Should Be Top Priority For Everyone

As homeowners and business owners clean up after Hurricane Harvey, Louisiana One Call 811 has some important safety reminders to share:

- When placing storm debris around servitudes, rights-of-ways, home or business areas, do not place items in front of, around, or on top of known areas of buried and above ground utilities. Specifically, any above ground structures such as meters and pedestals that provide gas, power, communication or water capabilities.
- As storm debris collection begins, it is important for all utilities, both underground and overhead, to be identified in order to prevent personal injury.
- If digging is required for installation of temporary poles for electrical needs or if any other digging occurs, please remember to “Call 811 Before You Dig” to prevent serious injury when digging near underground utility lines.
- If you suspect damage of any kind to underground lines, please contact your local utility. If there is damage to a gas line or dangerous/hazardous lines, please call 911. A gas leak could be occurring if you smell the distinctive natural gas odor, hear a hissing or whistling sound near a gas line, or see dead vegetation or bubbles near a gas line. If this occurs, vacate the area immediately and call 911.
- Remember that underground utility line depth varies, and there may be multiple utility lines in one common area. The risk of striking an underground utility line exists even when digging only a few inches. So call 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!