



For Immediate Release
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ICC Adopts Resolution Reminding Communities to Stay Safe by Calling 811 before Digging

Chicago - The Illinois Commerce Commission today adopted a [resolution](#) supporting the month of April as National Safe Digging Month, also known as “Call Before You Dig” month.

To prevent damage to underground utility lines, Illinois law requires homeowners and professional excavators to call 811 before beginning any outdoor project that requires digging. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after utility lines are marked after a call to 811.

The state One-Call Center, managed by JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) and DIGGER within the City of Chicago, is a twenty-four (24) hour service network system established to prevent contractors and private citizens from hitting any existing utility line(s) when digging. Regardless of the depth of the project, a homeowner or excavator must call 811 at least 48 hours/two working days prior to the start of excavation. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call, and locate requests have a 28-day life. 811 calls are then directed to the JULIE or DIGGER, and affected utilities will then mark underground lines for free.

In 2015, ICC staff issued 132 warnings and 68 citations for safe digging violations resulting in \$91,252 in penalties. Violations issued to excavators and homeowners included not having a valid locate request or not digging carefully around marked underground utility facilities, and for utilities, failure to mark their facilities in a timely manner. The ICC levied penalties as part of its One-Call enforcement efforts.

By adopting the resolution, the Commission joined Gov. Bruce Rauner, who [proclaimed](#) April “Call Before You Dig Month,” and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

For more information, visit the ICC’s Website at www.icc.illinois.gov or JULIE’s Website at www.illinois1call.com.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.