

# HSS Safety Message



## Summer Safety Message Protecting Yourself – Call Before You Dig!

### April is Smart Digging Month!



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Smart digging means knowing where utility lines are buried before you dig in order to protect yourself from injury and prevent damage to underground utility lines. One easy call

to 811 starts the process of getting underground utility lines marked for free. Calling 811 in Florida routes you to Sunshine State One Call. Your utility companies then send a professional locator to your location to mark underground lines within two full business days. Once the lines are marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.

### About 811

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

A new, federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.



**Smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Whether you are a homeowner or a professional excavator, one call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for FREE.**

Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you – Call 811 every time.

### Common Ground Alliance

You may be wondering exactly who is behind the 811 campaign? The answer to your question is the [Common Ground Alliance \(CGA\)](#). CGA is the leading association created specifically to work with **all** industry stakeholders in an effort to prevent damage to underground utility infrastructure and ensure public safety and environmental protection.

Officially formed in 2000, CGA represents a continuation of the United States Department of Transportation's Common Ground Study – a study that highlighted the need for one organization to continuously update best practices among the growing underground utility industry.

Along with the new 811-number, CGA and its 1,400 members and sponsors have launched the national "Call Before You Dig" campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of using 811, having utility lines marked before digging and protecting America's vast underground infrastructure of pipelines, conduits, wires and cables.

Every state has different rules and regulations governing digging, some stricter than others. In addition, 62 separate One Call Centers serve different areas of the country; now 811 will connect you directly to your local one call center. To find specific information for your region including the state-specific number, go to <http://www.call811.com/state-specific.aspx> and click on the shovel within your state on the map!