



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# COLORADO 811 CELEBRATES TENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

*Colorado 811 encourages Colorado residents to always contact 811 at least three business days before digging*

Golden, CO (March 28, 2017) – This April marks the tenth annual National Safe Digging Month, reminding all Colorado residents to always contact 811 at least three business days before any digging project. National Safe Digging Month is formally recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and has traditionally earned the support from nearly every state governor across the country, including Gov. John Hickenlooper.

When contacting 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Colorado 811, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811.

Striking a single utility line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin after contacting 811.

“As April marks the traditional start of digging season, we are using this month to strongly encourage homeowners and contractors to contact 811 before they begin digging,” said Marty Mead, Colorado 811 Director of Damage Prevention. “By calling 811 to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners and professionals are making an important decision that can help keep them and their communities safe and protected.”

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, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Colorado 811 encourages all residents to visit [www.co811.org](http://www.co811.org) for more information about digging safely.

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