



# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

District of Columbia

**Your Energy. Your Voice.**

## **Press Release**

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### **DC Council Recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month**

**The DCPSC reminds DC residents and businesses to call 811  
to avoid hitting underground utility lines for Spring digging projects**

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, the DC Council [recognized](#) April 2022 as National Safe Digging Month in the District of Columbia with a ceremonial resolution to raise awareness about safe digging in time for Spring digging projects. As the season changes, the Commission reminds residents and businesses to call 811 prior to any digging in the District. Projects of any size that require excavation activity pose a substantial health and safety risk. Any person involved with projects on public or private property are mandated to contact 811 at least two business days before digging to avoid hitting underground utility lines.

“Any digging that is not reported to 811 is considered unsafe,” stated Interim Chairman Emile Thompson. “An accidental hit to a utility line during a simple landscaping project can cause gas leaks, flooding, and contamination that can affect thousands of residents. Maintaining a safe community is critical during these trying times. The Commission thanks the public for their compliance with the law and consideration for their community and environmental health.”

Though home improvement projects, such as mailbox installations, fence building, or tree planting may seem harmless, they can have severely dangerous outcomes if utility lines are compromised while digging. In 2021, nearly **40% of homeowners put themselves and their communities at risk by digging without contacting 811** before attempting a home improvement project, according to the Common Ground Alliance, the national nonprofit trade association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines. Unsafe digging can result in service interruption, property damage, and bodily injury.

Contacting the One Call Center through 811 supports environmental preservation and prevents unintended damage. Professional locators will be dispatched to the dig site to mark the approximate location of any underground lines at no cost. Regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property, the Commission strongly encourages contacting 811 before digging to ensure underground utilities are not disturbed.

For additional information and resources for potential diggers, visit the DCPSC’s Pipeline Safety [webpage](#).

*The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is an independent agency established by Congress in 1913 to regulate electric, natural gas, and telecommunications companies in the District of Columbia.*

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