#### INDIANA FIRE PREVENTION MONTH NEWS RELEASE

#### [INSERT COMPANY LOGO]

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**NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH IS A CONVENIENT REMINDER TO ALWAYS CONTACT 811 BEFORE DIGGING**

*[STAKEHOLDER NAME] encourages Hoosiers to submit a free locate request at Indiana811.org or make a call to 811 at least two full working days before digging to know what’s below*

**CITY, Ind. (Oct. 1, 2024)** – October is National Fire Prevention Month, and [INSERT STAKEHOLDER NAME] reminds Indiana homeowners and contractors to contact Indiana 811 at least two full working days before digging to protect themselves from unintentionally striking buried utilities. Damage done to underground lines during excavation can lead to a variety of risk factors, including gas leaks that can sometimes serve as a fuel source for major fires.

When visiting [Indiana811.org](https://indiana811.org/) or calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Indiana 811, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested dig site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both.

Striking a single line can cause serious injuries, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811 or a visit to [Indiana811.org](https://indiana811.org/). Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that should include contacting 811 beforehand.

Anyone planning to “move dirt” should follow the five important steps for getting utilities marked – plan the project, contact Indiana 811, wait for the marks, confirm the marks and finally, dig with care.

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.

“During National Fire Prevention Monthand throughout the year, we remind homeowners and contractors alike to contact Indiana 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line – especially those with the potential to cause a fire or serious injury, like gas,” said [INSERT REPRESENTATIVE NAME], [TITLE] for [INSERT STAKEHOLDER NAME]. “As Indiana residents plan their final outdoor projects for the year, we ask that they make contacting 811 number one on their ‘to-do’ list.”

Visit [www.indiana811.org](http://www.indiana811.org) for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.

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