**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Anna Trim

913-526-9425

[atrim@mghus.com](mailto:atrim@mghus.com)

**Indiana 811 Promotes April as National Safe Digging Month, as Survey Reveals 56% of Americans Plan to Dig Without Contacting 811 First**

*Indiana 811 encourages Hoosiers to always contact 811 before beginning projects that require digging – including gardening, building a fence or installing a mailbox – to prevent damage to essential underground utilities and keep communities safe*

**GREENWOOD, Ind. (April 1, 2024)** – Warm weather dig season is officially underway, and Gov. Holcomb recently proclaimed April as National Safe Digging Month for the state of Indiana. The proclamation serves as a reminder for Indiana professional excavators and homeowners alike to contact Indiana 811, the statewide “811 Before You Dig” center, at least two full working days before starting any outdoor digging projects.

According to a recent survey by the Common Ground Alliance - the national association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, people who dig near them and their communities - **56% of U.S. homeowners planning do-it-yourself projects do not intend on contacting 811 before digging. However, 95% of homeowners said they valued contractors contacting 811 to have the underground utilities on their property marked.**

To contribute to a streamlined 811 process, both homeowners and professionals alike should “White Line,” which entails using white paint or flags to mark the intended dig site prior to contacting 811, saving time and money for everyone involved in the 811 process. After the intended dig site has been marked, a ticket can be submitted by going online to [www.Indiana811.org](https://indiana811.org/) or by calling 811, and utility locators will know precisely where the project will take place, eliminating unnecessary locate markings.

After submitting a ticket by visiting [www.Indiana811.org](http://www.indiana811.org) or by calling 811, the utility companies who have assets in the dig area will be notified. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas.

As part of National Safe Digging Month, Indiana 811 encourages homeowners and professionals to take the following steps to stay safe and dig smart this spring:

* Always contact Indiana 811 at least two full working days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
* White Line prior to contacting 811 to save time and ensure utility locators know exactly where your project will take place.
* Plan ahead. Contact 811 by submitting a ticket at [www.Indiana811.org](http://www.indiana811.org) or by calling 811 on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked. Also remember to plan for holidays.
* Confirm that all lines have been marked.
* Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
* If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin if the underground utilities aren't marked.
* Visit [www.Indiana811.org](http://www.indiana811.org) for complete information.

**About Indiana 811**

Indiana 811 is a non-profit corporation made up of member operators of underground facilities in Indiana, designed to reduce the number of damages to buried utilities and promote safe digging state-wide. This free service helps prevent damage incidents which can result in millions of dollars in property damage, the interruption of utility service, personal injuries and even loss of life.

Indiana’s “[811 Before You Dig” law](https://indiana811.org/resources/law/) (IC 8-1-26) requires everyone who digs to contact Indiana 811 at least two full working days before starting a project. All underground utility owners and operators are required by law to be members of Indiana 811. Upon receipt of a ticket, Indiana 811 notifies their member utilities or contract locators to request that they mark their buried utility lines in the area of the dig site.

Indiana 811’s mission is to lead Indiana in promoting safety and preventing damage to underground facilities by providing excellent coordination and notification services at a reasonable cost.

# # #