



Safe Digging Month: April 1 – April 30, 2026

Every April marks the beginning of **Safe Digging Month** aligning with the start of spring when outdoor projects typically commence.

This initiative is an essential reminder for both excavators and homeowners to contact 811 at least three business days before starting any digging. By following this important step, individuals can ensure facility owners and operators accurately locate and mark underground utility lines reducing risk of accidental damage. By proactively contacting 811, an excavator not only prevents injuries but also reduce the risk of disruptive utility outages, underscoring the crucial role of safety and responsibility in excavation practices.

Pennsylvania 811 is asking for your help.

Pennsylvania 811 is calling on community leaders, safety ambassadors, and anyone involved with underground utilities, or construction projects to support this public awareness campaign. Digging without first identifying utility lines results in injuries, loss of life, and property damage every year, often causing service outages, utility line damages and incurring fines.



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

Communications Plan

The Communications Plan is attached for you to use with your promotions. The images and templates are available online to download: www.paonecall.org/SafeDiggingMonth

Always contact 811 before you dig.

Pennsylvania 811's mission is to prevent damage to underground facilities. To promote safety, we provide an efficient and effective communications network among project owners, designers, excavators, and facility owners within 67 counties, 24/7, 24 hours a day, every day each year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of our Damage Prevention Liaisons at www.paonecall.org/liaisons. We are here to help y!

Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. *dba* Pennsylvania 811

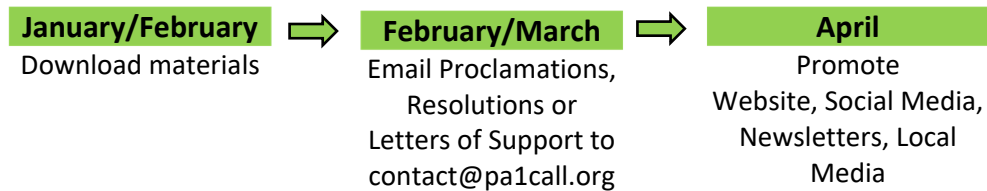


Be proactive.

Don't wait until April to promote safety digging within your communities or companies. Use the communication plan to develop safe digging messages.

Marquee message	Press release	Proclamation	Bill stuffers
Website	Newsletters	Resolution	Invoices
Social Media	Bulletins	Letter of Support	Contracts

Strategy



Execution

1. Decide how you would like to promote safe digging.
2. Download the artwork and templates: www.pa1call.org/safediggingmonth
3. Send all of your promotions to contact@pa1call.org before April 1st.



Safe Digging Month



Safety is in your hands.



Safe Digging Partner

Written Communications

To make it easier when writing content for a press release, article or social media messaging, use the following information.

- Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. *dba* Pennsylvania 811
- Pennsylvania 811 website is www.paonecall.org
- PA Act 287 of 1974, as amended *or* PA Act 287, as amended *or* Pennsylvania Underground Utility Line Protection Law (PA UULPL)
- Contact 811 at least **three business days** before digging
- Online locate request at least **three business days** before digging is www.pa1call.org/notify
- The service is free to any homeowner working on their residential property
- A small fee applies for professional contractors per calendar year for **unlimited use of the service**
- Pennsylvania 811 does not locate underground lines
- A tolerance zone is the horizontal space within eighteen inches of the outside wall or edge of a line or facility
- Within the tolerance zone you must employ prudent techniques, which may include hand-dug test holes or vacuum excavation
- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) is the enforcement authority of PA Act 287 of 1974, as amended puc.pa.gov/pipeline/pa-one-call/

Proclamations, Resolutions and Letters of Support

Templates are available on our website at www.pa1call.org/SafeDiggingMonth.

If we receive before April at contact@pa1call.org; we will publish it on our website.

- A **proclamation** is a ceremonial document issued by Commissioners or Council to *commemorate a specific time* (day, week or month) for raising awareness about local efforts.
- A **resolution** is a ceremonial document that generally commends an organization for *service to the community* for a particular accomplishment.
- A **letter of support** offers recognition in collaboration with a *business* or organization's public awareness outreach efforts.

The templates are available as Microsoft Word documents. You may fill in the green areas, or edit the document to change the font color, style and type to your preference.

Social Media

To optimize your message on your social media channels—Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn—you may want to use hashtags or snippets.

HASH TAGS		
#NSDM	#811beforeyoudig	#SafeDiggingMonth
SNIPPETS		
Contact 811 at least three business days before digging. Contact 811 before you dig. It's the law! Call 811 before you dig.		
We support April as Safe Digging Month! Do your part contact 811 before you dig. Become a safe digging partner and contact 811 before you dig. Safety is in your hands. Every dig. Every time.		

Education

There are several opportunities to obtain education through a number of resources.

Pennsylvania 811 offers online and in-person programs and safety day conferences. These events are listed on our events calendar: www.pa1call.org/events.

You can contact one of our Damage Prevention Liaisons to schedule a presentation at your location or online: www.pa1call.org/liaisons

Or, look for us on our YouTube Channel: www.pa1call.org/videos

You can access our library on our website: www.pa1call.org/resources

Keep in Touch

Follow us on social media: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), or LinkedIn.