

TALKING POINTS

Many stakeholders in Pennsylvania hold weekly, monthly and quarterly safety meetings. If you need talking points to be presented at your next meeting on or around August 11, or anytime you want to discuss 811; please feel free to download this document. Our intention is to help educate your employees about 811 and its role in protecting the safety of workers, customers and entire communities.



Key messages:

- Every digging project requires contacting 811
- Contacting 811 at least three business days prior to digging notifies underground facility owners/operators of the intent to dig and gives representatives time to mark their appropriate lines
- The number one cause of damages to buried utilities, year after year, is digging without contacting 811 first to have the underground utility lines marked
- *August 11 is 8-1-1* on the calendar and a great opportunity to promote safe digging practices

How 811 works:

- It's as easy as calling 811 or going online to www.pa1call.org/notify at least three business days before digging
- Your local utility companies will be notified of your intent to dig, and if they have underground lines in the area, you indicated you are working; they will mark the approximate location of any buried lines in your work site
- Once the lines have been marked, you should respect the 18-inch tolerance zone marks and avoid digging in that area with powered equipment

Types of projects:

- Lines need to be marked for each separate project, such as installing a mailbox, putting up a fence, planting trees or building a deck
- Contact 811 at least three business days prior to digging to allow time for professional locators to mark the utility lines
- If you hire a contractor, they are obligated to contact 811 to have the underground lines marked
- If you are hand digging, you are required to contact 811. Note: utilities can be buried inches below the surface due to erosion or prior excavation activities



Consequences:

- Hitting an underground utility line while digging can disrupt critical service to entire neighborhoods, cause dangerous gas leaks, result in fines and repair costs and even cause serious injury or death

More information:

- To learn more about 811, visit www.paonecall.org