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ALABAMIANS TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING

Montgomery, Alabama (Aug. 6, 2019) – Today, members of the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) encouraged residents to avoid making judgment calls but rather make a phone call to 811, 2 days before digging projects to ensure to know what is below.

As the Summer progresses, August 11th is right around the corner. The 8/11 date has been designated as a calendar tickler. The APSC hopes this date on the calendar, 8/11, will serve as a reminder for residents to call 811 before any digging projects, to have underground utility lines marked. Every few minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Alabama 811, the local One-Call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of the resident's intent to dig. Professional locators are then dispatched to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

When a single line is struck, it can cause injury, repair costs, fines, and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

"On August 11th and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to call 811 before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, President of the APSC. "It is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area."

The depth of utility lines can vary for several 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 or digging in a location that's previously been marked, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Additional information about 811 and safe digging practices can be found at www.call811.com or <http://www.al811.com>.

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