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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**AUGUST 11 (8/11) SERVES AS CONVENIENT REMINDER FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS TO
ALWAYS CONTACT 811 BEFORE DIGGING**



Resolution is Signed for Safe Digging Awareness Day. Pictured from left to right: Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden, President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, Director of Gas Pipeline Safety Division, Wallace R. Jones, and Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

Montgomery, Alabama (August 3, 2021) – August 11, 2021, is almost here, and the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) hopes that the 8/11 date on the calendar will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project so that underground utility lines may be located and marked. Every few minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. The Alabama Public Service Commission encourages people to make the call at least two days before digging so that lines can be marked and damages to buried utility lines may be avoided.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 service before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line,”

said Twinkle Cavanaugh, APSC President. “Calling 811 or visiting <http://al811.com/> is really the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so that you can dig safely.”

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the state-wide one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Requests can also be made online at <http://al811.com/>. Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint, or both. Commissioner Beeker responded that “We are pleased to bring awareness of the 811 resource and hope that it continues to be used to ensure the safety of anyone digging underground.”

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, inconvenient outages, and fines. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants contacting 811 by phone or online. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree, and laying a patio are just some examples of digging projects where residents should call 811 before starting.

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.

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