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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AUG. 11 (8/11) SERVES AS CONVENIENT REMINDER FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS TO ALWAYS
CONTACT 8-1-1 BEFORE DIGGING**

MONTGOMERY, Ala., August 2, 2022 – Aug. 11, 2022, is almost here, and the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) hopes the 8/11 calendar date will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 8-1-1 prior to any digging project for underground utility line inspection.

When calling 8-1-1, 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 al811.com. Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

"On Aug. 11, and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 8-1-1 service before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Twinkle Cavanaugh, APSC President. "Calling 8-1-1 or visiting al811.com is really the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so you can dig safely."

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, inconvenient outages and fines. All digging projects warrant contacting 8-1-1 by phone or online. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are digging projects examples that need a call to 8-1-1 before starting.

"8-1-1 is a free service and asset for anyone to use," Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker said. "Something as simple as landscape removal can have major consequences if you aren't familiar with what lies beneath the

ground. 8-1-1 helps alleviate the potential problems associated with hitting a utility line. Remember to ‘Call Before You Dig!’”

Utility line depth 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.

“Aug. 11 serves as a very important safety reminder we want everyone to take note of before starting their next backyard project,” Commissioner Jeremy Oden said. “The simple yet critical step of contacting 8-1-1 not only ensures the safety of the homeowner before they dig, but also helps avoid timely and costly repairs, inconvenience and outages.”

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