



STATE OF ALABAMA

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

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) encourages residents to call 8-1-1 for underground utility inspection two days prior to beginning digging projects.

"It is so important for homeowners and professional contractors to use the free 8-1-1 service before you dig," President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh said. "Using the 8-1-1 service is the only way to be absolutely sure you will avoid buried utility lines when you dig. All it takes is a quick phone call by dialing 8-1-1 or visiting al811.com."

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. Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

"8-1-1 is a free service and asset for anyone to use," Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker Jr. said. "Something as simple as landscape removal, installing a mailbox or building a deck 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!'"

Erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces can cause utility line depth to vary. 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.

"August 11 serves as a very important safety reminder we want everyone to take note of before starting their next backyard project," Commissioner Jeremy H. 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.”

The mission of the Alabama Public Service Commission is to ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical. For more information, visit psc.alabama.gov.

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