



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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For Immediate Release

AUGUST 11 (8/11) IS A REMINDER TO NEW YORK CITY & LONG ISLAND RESIDENTS TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING

*Recent survey reveals that outdoor do-it-yourself projects remain
strong throughout 2009*

NEW YORK – (August 10, 2009) – The New York City & Long Island One Call Center, a non-profit organization that notifies operators of underground facilities of planned digging activity, wants August 11 (8/11) to serve as a day of reminder for residents of the five boroughs of New York City and two counties of Long Island to call 811 prior to digging to prevent accidental damage to underground utility lines.

The reminder comes on the heels of a recent survey by The National Gardening Association which found that 68 percent of households anticipate their do-it-yourself lawn and garden projects to remain the same in 2009 despite the current state of the economy.

A call to 811 connects homeowners and professional excavators to the New York City & Long Island One Call Center which notifies its members who may have utility lines in the area of the intent to dig. Utility company representatives are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint.

The New York City & Long Island One Call Center requires a call at least two working days before the planned project start date, meaning Tuesday, August 11 is the ideal day to notify the One Call Center of any digging planned for the weekend of August 15-16.

New York State law requires all professional excavators and contractors to notify a one call center before digging – even when working on private property. The law does not apply to homeowners; however homeowners are still encouraged to call due to the safety issues involved. Striking a single underground line can cause injuries, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to the One Call Center. Installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, building a deck and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that should warrant a call to 811.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Roger Sampson, president of the Board of Directors, New York City & Long Island One Call Center. “Failure to call before digging results in more than 250,000 unintentional hits annually, and we do not want anyone’s project to become part of the statistic.”

Please call The New York City & Long Island One Call Center at 1-800-272-4480 or visit www.nyclionecall.com for more information about safe digging.

About the New York City & Long Island One Call Center

The New York City & Long Island One Call Center is a member-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of underground facilities from damage due to excavation and demolition. The One Call Center's services include receiving notices of intent to perform excavation and demolition and transmitting them to its members in the specified dig area within the five boroughs of New York and the two counties of Long Island. Upon receipt of the planned excavation notification, members including utility companies and other operators of underground facilities must properly mark their underground facilities to minimize the risk of damage and injury. Located in Queens, the One Call Center accepts requests 24/7 and is easily contacted by dialing 811. For more information, please visit www.nyclionecall.com.

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