

## INTERNAL TALKING POINTS FOR 8/11 DAY

Many CGA stakeholders begin each meeting with a safety message. Below CGA has provided talking points that can be presented at your company's next safety meeting on or around Aug. 11 to help educate employees about 811 and its role in protecting the safety of workers, customers and entire communities.

### Key messages:

- Every digging project requires contacting 811.
- Contacting 811 a few days prior to digging notifies utility companies of the intent to dig and gives representatives time to mark the appropriate lines.
- Aug. 11 is 8-1-1 on the calendar, a natural reminder for people to contact 811.

### How 811 works:

- 811 can be called from anywhere in the country, and most 811 centers also take requests online.
- A representative from your local 811 center will answer the call to find out the location and description of the digging site.
- The affected utility companies will be notified of the intent to dig.
- The utility companies will each send a professional locator to the digging site to identify and mark the approximate location of the underground lines.
- Once lines have been marked, you should respect the marks and dig carefully around them.

### Types of projects:

- Lines need to be marked for each separate project, such as installing a rural mailbox, putting up a fence, planting trees or building a deck.
- Contact 811 a few days prior to digging to allow time for professional locators to mark the utility lines.
- Even if you've hired a contractor, make sure the contractor contacts 811 to have lines marked.

### Consequences:

- Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause serious injuries, disrupt service to entire neighborhoods, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

### More information:

- To learn more about 811, visit [www.811beforeyoudig.com](http://www.811beforeyoudig.com).

## **INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS TEMPLATE FOR 8/11 DAY**

### **8/11 DAY IS A NATURAL REMINDER TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING**

Thursday is Aug. 11 (8/11 on the calendar), which serves as a good reminder to everyone to contact 811 a few days before digging to identify the approximate location of underground utility lines.

Utility services that your family depends on, such as cable TV, high-speed internet, landline telephone, electric, gas, water and sewer, are buried underground in many communities. Striking one of these lines can result in inconvenient outages for entire neighborhoods, harm to yourself or someone else, and repair costs.

The best way to avoid damaging your utilities and risking injury or loss of service is to contact 811 a few days before digging to learn the approximate location of buried lines in your area.

When you contact 811 a few days before you plan to start your project, a local 811 center will collect your information and notify the affected local utility companies of your intent to dig. A professional locator will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of all underground utility lines with paint, flags or both. Once your site has been marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas.

No matter the type of project – installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, planting trees or shrubbery, building a patio or deck, or excavating a new garden area – make sure to contact 811 several days prior to digging to have your site properly marked, and remind our customers, as well as your friends and family, to do the same. Always contact 811 before you dig and know what's below.

[Email signature if applicable]