

Louisiana 811 Law Updates – Effective August 1, 2026

Key Changes Under Act No. 902 (SB469) and Act No. 161 (HB464)

1. Positive Response Requirement

All 811 member operators are now required to provide Positive Response back to Louisiana 811 for locate requests.

2. Expanded Membership Requirements

Mandatory participation in the 811 system now applies to all underground utility/facility owners and operators, with limited statutory exemptions including population-based legislative references.

3. Enforcement Authority Expanded

Enforcement officers may stop excavation activity when reasonable cause exists, including:

- No valid locate ticket
- Expired ticket
- Excavation in unmarked or improperly marked areas
- Other visible violations of Louisiana 811 law

BEAD Project Requirements

1. Large Project Ticket Required

All Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funded work must use the Large Project Ticket process.

2. Minimum 30-Day Notice

BEAD contractors must provide at least 30 days advance notice to affected 811 members prior to excavation.

3. Written Coordination Agreement

- Must be created in good faith
- Defines scope of work, mark-by times, and coordination requirements
- Must be kept on-site
- Must be uploaded and attached to the Large Project Ticket

4. Field Start Requirements

If markings are not visible and no Positive Response is received:

- Excavation shall NOT begin until notice is provided
- Operators have 3 hours to respond by marking or providing Positive Response
- If no response within 3 hours, excavation may proceed with caution

Damage Notification & Repair Process (§1749.17)

If damage occurs:

- Excavator must immediately notify the facility owner/operator, emergency personnel, and the Regional Notification Center
- Notification must include the location and nature of the damage
- Work must pause in the affected area until repairs are addressed

New Requirement

The Regional Notification Center will notify all potentially affected utility owners/operators in the area of reported damage.

Excavation Decision Flowchart

01

Is this a BEAD project?

NO → Follow normal 811 rules | **YES** → Continue to next step

02

Was a 30-day notice sent using the Large Project Ticket process? (Type of Work field must read: "INSTALL FIBER LINE-BEAD")

NO → Do not excavate | **YES** → Continue to next step

03

Do you have a signed agreement with all utilities?

NO → Do not excavate | **YES** → Continue to next step

04

Has the written agreement been uploaded and attached to the applicable Large Project Ticket?

NO → Upload and attach before proceeding | **YES** → Continue to next step

05

Is the agreement on site?

NO → Risk of noncompliance | **YES** → Continue to next step

06

Are utilities marked or positive response received?

NO → Has 3-hour time passed?

• **NO** → Do not excavate

• **YES** → Proceed carefully due care

YES → Are you working in public ROW?

• **YES** → Is required signage up? If YES → Proceed carefully due care

• **NO** → Proceed carefully due care - noncompliance risk