



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**North Dakotans Reminded to Call Before You Dig**  
***Governor Dalrymple Proclaims Safe Digging Month in North Dakota***

BISMARCK, ND – Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month in North Dakota. In recognition, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) is reminding everyone of the potential dangers and consequences of digging without first calling 811, North Dakota’s Call-Before-You-Dig number.

“The importance of safety can’t be overstated. A simple call prior to digging could save your life or the life of your neighbors,” said Commission Chairman Brian Kalk.

Each year North Dakota’s underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to call 8-1-1 to have underground facilities located prior to digging. Since 2009, the PSC has taken enforcement action in over 20 cases related to violations of the Call-Before-You-Dig law. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be severe including explosions resulting in injury or death, service interruptions or damage to the environment.

The process is simple. North Dakota law requires anyone conducting an excavation or demolition to notify 811 at least two days in advance of digging. Personnel will be sent to locate underground facilities at no cost to the caller, typically within a couple of days. The locates are valid for 21 days after they are placed.

The significant residential and business growth occurring throughout North Dakota and the increased demand for pipeline infrastructure to support the energy industry have dramatically increased demand for the One-Call Program. Online requests and calls from 811 to utilities requesting locates continue to increase each year, with about 31,000 more requests in 2013 compared to 2012. There were more than 1.1 million locate requests in 2013.

The 2013 Legislature also increased penalties for violations of the One-Call law. The Public Service Commission can now levy a fine up to \$25,000 per violation depending on severity. Another significant improvement to the program allows utility companies to charge for relocates. This is an effort to reduce duplicate requests for locating infrastructure on the same area of land.

Safe Digging Month is endorsed each April by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the Common Ground Alliance and the North Dakota One-Call Board.

For more information about 811, visit the North Dakota One-Call Board's website at [www.ndonecall.com](http://www.ndonecall.com). For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com).

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, grain elevators, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

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— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Jack Dalrymple**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**SAFE DIGGING MONTH**  
APRIL 2014

**WHEREAS**, each year, the nation's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage by those who fail to call 8-1-1 to have underground facilities located prior to digging, resulting in possible service interruptions, damage to the environment, personal injury and even death; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to reduce these damages, the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the Common Ground Alliance and the North Dakota One Call Board promote the national Call-Before-You-Dig number, 8-1-1, as well as the use of safe digging practices; and

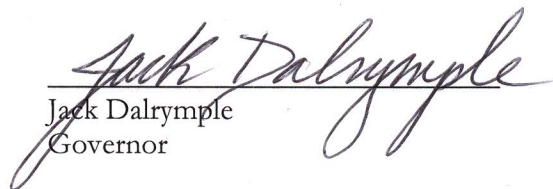
**WHEREAS**, designated by the Federal Communications Commission in 2005, 8-1-1 provides potential excavators and homeowners with a simple number to reach their local One Call Center to request utility locations at the intended dig site; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota law requires that anyone planning excavation or demolition must notify North Dakota 8-1-1, and if a facility must be located, personnel will be sent to mark the location of underground facilities at no cost to the requesting party; and

**WHEREAS**, by following safe digging practices, excavators and homeowners can save time and money by making a simple call to 8-1-1 in advance of any digging project, waiting the required amount of time for the utility to be located, respecting the location marks by maintaining visual definition throughout the excavation, and digging with care around the marks; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota excavators and homeowners are encouraged to know what is below, and to call 8-1-1 before digging to ensure the safety and connectivity of our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2014, **SAFE DIGGING MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

  
Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State