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**AUG. 11, 2010 SERVES AS CONVENIENT REMINDER FOR
COLORADO 811 RESIDENTS TO ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE
DIGGING**

Colorado 811 encourages people to make a free call 3 days before digging to know what's below

Golden, Colorado (Aug. 2, 2010) – Colorado 811 wants everyone to mark the date 8-11 on the calendar hoping it will serve as a natural reminder for residents nationwide to call 811 prior to any digging project in order to have underground utility lines marked. This comes on the heels of a recent report published by *Common Ground Alliance* in the CGA Dirt Annual Report for 2009 stating that an underground utility line is damaged during digging projects once every three minutes nationwide.

Dialing 811 from any land line or cell phone in Colorado will connect homeowners and contractors to **Colorado 811**, the state's one-call center, where they can get assistance in notifying the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Once notified, professional locators will be sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground utility lines with flags, spray paint or both. Furthermore, dialing 811 anywhere in the nation will connect the caller to their local one-call center.

Additionally, anyone planning to dig during the weekend of Aug. 14 – 15 should call 811 before the end of the business day on Aug. 11. **Colorado 811** requires a call at least 3 working days before the planned project's start date.

Striking a single utility line can lead to serious and possibly fatal injuries, high repair costs and fines, and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. IT'S THE LAW! Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that require a call to 811 before starting.

"On Aug. 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line," said Brent Sumner, Public Relations for **Colorado 811**. "Failure to call before digging results in more than 60,000 unintentional hits annually, and we do not want anyone's project to become part of the statistic."

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

For more information about the law, 811 and safe digging practices, visit: www.call811.com or www.co811.org or call Brent Sumner at 1-800-833-9417 or 303-205-6365.