



811 Safety Message Talking Points for Internal Meetings on 8/11 Day

Several Colorado811 stakeholders often begin each meeting with a safety message. Below Colorado811 has provided talking points that can be presented at your company's next safety meeting on or around August 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 a call to 811.
- Calling 811 a few days prior to digging notifies utility companies of the intent to dig and gives representatives time to mark the appropriate lines.
- August 11 is 8/11 on the calendar, a natural reminder for people to call 811.

How 811 works:

- 811 can be called from anywhere in the country.
- A representative from your local one call 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 send a professional locator to the digging site to identify and mark the approximate location of the underground lines.
- When 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, cleaning up after a natural disaster or major storm, or building a deck.
- Call 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 calls 811 to have lines marked.

Consequences:

- There are more than 170,000 unintentional hits of underground lines annually across the country, a figure that equals once every three minutes.
- 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.call811.com, www.co811.org.