

## **INTERNAL TALKING POINTS FOR 811**

Many Companies often begin each meeting with a safety message. Below Dig Line has provided talking points that can be presented at your company's next safety meeting to help educate employees about 811 and its role in protecting the safety of workers, customers and entire communities. This message is published by Common Ground Alliance.

### **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.

### **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.
- 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.
- 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 165,000 unintentional hits of underground lines annually across the country, And one out of every three of those incidents are the result of not calling 811.
- 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.digline.com](http://www.digline.com).