



**Contact: Bill Edge**  
Phone 404-656-2316  
www.psc.state.ga.us

## **Georgia Public Service Commission**

244 Washington St S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: 404-656-4501  
Toll free: 800-282-5813

**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PSC Joins with Governor Deal in Proclaiming April Dig Safely Month**

ATLANTA, April 11, 2012 – Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has proclaimed April 2012 as Dig Safely Month in Georgia. During a ceremony today at the State Capitol, Governor Deal presented a proclamation to Commissioner Doug Everett and Commissioner Stan Wise, who accepted on behalf of the Georgia Public Service Commission, and to Georgia 811 President and CEO Claudette Campbell. Commission staff, Georgia 811 staff and representatives from the utility owners, excavators, locate contractors who are involved in the prevention of damage to Georgia's underground utility infrastructure were also present.

Commissioner Doug Everett said, "I want to remind anyone who excavates to call before you dig by placing a call to 8-1-1. It's free and it's the law. By calling before you dig, we can prevent the disruptions and economic losses that can occur when underground utilities are damaged."

The Public Service Commission is charged with the enforcement of the state's underground utilities damage prevention programs under legislation approved in 2000. The Commission works in close cooperation with Georgia 811 which accepts calls from the national federally mandated "Call before You Dig" Number 8-1-1. This "one call" system is free to contractors and excavators as well as homeowners and helps all excavators comply with the law.

"Calling 8-1-1 is the best way to prevent damage to our underground utilities," said Commissioner Wise, "When underground utilities are damaged, everyone loses."

Commission Chairman Tim Echols added, "We are pleased to join with the Governor and all interested groups in working together to prevent damages from occurring to the state's underground utility facilities. Our common goals are to prevent the interruption of utility services and personal injuries that result from accidents which damage underground facilities. Since the passage of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act in 2000, Georgia has built a damage prevention program that ranks in the top five in the nation."

Georgia 811 CEO Claudette Campbell said, "Georgia has recognized Safe Digging month for more than 20 years, encouraging homeowners and professionals to call before digging. Safe Digging Month was first celebrated in 2007 with the rollout of 811 (the national call before you dig number). This year we celebrate five years of 811 and National Safe Digging Month. Through its nationwide use, 8-1-1 is recognized as the way that we are able to keep both the public and the professional excavator safe."



More information is available on the Commission web site, [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

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