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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

18-19

AUGUST 11 (8/11) NATIONAL DIG SAFELY DAY SERVES AS CONVENIENT REMINDER FOR GEORGIA RESIDENTS TO ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING

*The Georgia Public Service Commission Encourages Georgians to Make a Free Call at Least Three Days
before Digging to Know What's Below*

Atlanta- Aug. 10, 2018 – With August 11 almost here, the Georgia Public Service Commission hopes this date on the calendar, 8/11, will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked. Every hour more than six damages to buried utilities occur because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Georgia 811, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

“On August 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 Commission Chairman Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, “It really is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area.”

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.

You can visit www.call811.com or www.georgia811.com for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a five-member constitutional agency that exercises its authority and influence to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies. For more information on the Commission visit our web site at www.psc.state.ga.us.

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