



**April is National
Safe Digging Month**



Celebrate National Safe Digging Month This April with North Carolina 811

North Carolina 811 is excited to announce the celebration of National Safe Digging Month this April. As the start of the spring digging season, April is the perfect time to remind everyone about the importance of safe digging practices to prevent damage to underground utilities and ensure the safety of our communities.

Spring is a season of renewal and growth, making it an ideal time for outdoor projects such as gardening, landscaping, and home improvements. However, before you start digging, it is crucial to be aware of the potential hazards lurking underground. Hitting a buried utility line can cause serious injuries, service disruptions, and costly repairs.

To support safe digging efforts, North Carolina 811 is directing residents and professionals to visit <https://nc811.org/national-safe-digging-month/>. Here, you can:

- **Download our Safe Digging Toolkit:** Access essential resources and social media graphics to share.
- **Watch Informative Videos:** Learn more about the safe digging process and the importance of calling 811 before you dig.
- **Become a Safe Digging Partner:** Join our community of advocates committed to promoting safe digging practices.
- **Take the Pipes Plus Damage Prevention Training:** Enhance your knowledge and skills by enrolling in our comprehensive training program at ncpipesplus.org.

"April is a great month to celebrate National Safe Digging Month because it marks the beginning of the spring digging season," said Louis Panzer, Executive Director at North Carolina 811. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of the resources available on our website and to always call 811 before starting any digging project. Together, we can prevent damage to underground utilities and keep our communities safe."



April is National Safe Digging Month, and NC811 is celebrating by giving you the chance to transform your backyard into the ultimate outdoor oasis. Safe digging starts with a simple step — contacting 811 before you dig — and this month, that simple step could win you an incredible prize package worth over \$1,000.

We're giving away a complete Outdoor Oasis Bundle designed to elevate your spring and summer outdoor living. One lucky winner will receive:

32" Propane Fire Pit – Create the perfect gathering spot for cool evenings.

200FT Vintage Edison String Lights – Add warm, inviting ambiance to any outdoor space.

21" Cordless Battery Self-Propelled Mower & Blower Combo Kit – Keep your yard looking sharp with powerful, cordless convenience.

Landscaping Shovel & Rake Tools Set – Tackle your next project with durable, reliable tools.

This giveaway is our way of reminding North Carolinians that safe digging protects you, your community, and the underground utilities we all rely on. Before starting any digging project – big or small – always contact 811.

Enter today for your chance to win, and help us spread the word about safe digging all month long.

Enter before May 1st, 2026



Talking Points for National Safe Digging Month Presentations

Introduction

- **Importance of National Safe Digging Month:** Highlight that April is National Safe Digging Month, emphasizing the significance of safe digging practices to prevent damage to underground utilities and ensure community safety.


Key Messages

- **Spring Digging Season:** Explain that April marks the start of the spring digging season, a time when many people begin outdoor projects such as gardening, landscaping, and home improvements.
- **Call Before You Dig:** Stress the importance of calling 811 before starting any digging project. This simple step can prevent accidents and service disruptions.
- **Potential Hazards:** Discuss the risks associated with hitting buried utility lines, including injuries, service outages, and costly repairs.

Resources and Tools

- **Safe Digging Toolkit:** Encourage the audience to download the Safe Digging Toolkit from <https://nc811.org/national-safe-digging-month/>. Explain that the toolkit contains essential resources.
- **Informative Videos:** Mention the availability of videos on the website that provide detailed information about the safe digging process and the importance of calling 811.
- **Safe Digging Partners:** Invite the audience to become Safe Digging Partners and join the community of advocates promoting safe digging practices.
- **Pipes Plus Damage Prevention Training:** Highlight the Pipes Plus Damage Prevention Training available at ncpipesplus.org. Explain how this training can enhance knowledge and skills related to damage prevention.

Call to Action

- **Encourage Action:** Urge the audience to visit <https://nc811.org/national-safe-digging-month/> to access resources, watch videos, and become Safe Digging Partners.
 - **Promote Training:** Encourage enrollment in the Pipes Plus Damage Prevention Training at ncpipesplus.org.
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State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

SAFE DIGGING MONTH

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages people to contact the North Carolina 811 Center to locate underground lines prior to digging; and

WHEREAS, each year, North Carolina underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage done by those who fail to contact 811 before digging, causing service interruption,

GOVERNOR STEIN DECLARES APRIL NORTH CAROLINA SAFE DIGGING MONTH

NC811 urges residents statewide to call 811 before every digging project—large or small

GREENSBORO, NC (April 1, 2026) As spring projects kick into high gear, North Carolina Governor Josh Stein has officially proclaimed April as *North Carolina Safe Digging Month* during an announcement at the Capitol Building in Raleigh.

North Carolina has marked Safe Digging Month every year since 1988—well before national awareness efforts took shape—underscoring the state's long-standing commitment to public safety. The proclamation serves as a timely reminder for homeowners and contractors alike to call **811** before putting a shovel in the ground.

With warmer weather inspiring outdoor improvements, NC811 and Governor Stein are reminding residents that calling 811 helps prevent serious injuries, costly repairs, and

unexpected service outages. Yet fewer than half of Americans realize they need to call 811 before common projects such as:

- Installing a deck or patio
- Planting trees, shrubs, or bushes
- Installing a mailbox

“Failing to call 811 before digging can have dangerous and expensive consequences,” said Governor Stein. “I encourage every North Carolinian to take a few minutes to use this free and essential service—it can save lives, time, and money.”

Calling 811 connects homeowners to **NC811**, which alerts utility companies to the planned excavation. Trained professional locators are then dispatched to mark the approximate locations of underground utility lines using flags, paint, or stakes. Once utilities are marked, digging can proceed safely around those areas.

“We’re proud to partner with the governor in reminding residents and businesses that one simple call can make a world of difference,” said **Louis Panzer, Executive Director of NC811**. “Knowing where underground lines are located helps protect families, neighborhoods, and critical infrastructure. Remember—811. Every dig. Every time.”

Striking even one buried utility line can result in injury, repair costs, fines, and service interruptions affecting entire communities. Whether it’s setting a fence post, building a deck, installing a mailbox, or laying a patio, **every digging project requires a call to 811 before work begins.**

For more information about safe digging and the call-before-you-dig process, visit www.nc811.org or www.call811.com.

[Download the proclamation PDF](#)

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[Learn More About Safe Digging Month](#)