

News Release

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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
KUB Communications

April is Safe Digging Month

KUB Reminds All Customers to Practice Safe Digging

April is safe digging month, and KUB wants to remind customers of safe digging practices that should be followed not just in April, but year-round. Data from the Common Ground Alliance reports there are more than 105 yards of buried utilities for every man, woman, and child in the United States, and that an underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes because 811 was not called prior to digging.

Tennessee State Law requires anyone about to engage in digging, excavation, moving of earth, demolition, or any type of activity that could damage underground utility lines, to notify Tennessee One Call (811) of their intent to dig no less than three business days before the work is to begin. Tennessee One Call will then notify KUB and other member companies about the proposed work and then the utilities at the requested digging site will be marked with paint or flags so customers will know where to safely dig.

No matter the size of the project, from as small as installing a mailbox to as large as adding onto your home, all projects that require digging can result in damage to underground utility lines, which is why it is important to call 811 to have those lines marked, free of charge, before beginning your project. In place of a call, you can also download Tennessee 811's mobile app for Android and Apple devices. This free app can be used to submit a locate request, search for locate tickets, and access the Tennessee 811 handbook among other useful tools.

KUB also wants to remind customers of the following safe digging messages:

- Damage to underground utility lines can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, cause injury or death to the excavators, and result in fines and repair costs. The depths of utility lines vary and multiple lines may exist in the same area.
- Customers should always use extreme caution when they dig and avoid digging within the utility safety zone. The safety zone is a strip of land extending 2 feet on either side of the utility.
- Customer-owned service lines such as underground electrical, water, and wastewater are not mapped and therefore may not be marked. Natural gas service lines are mapped and will be marked.
- Other customer-owned buried lines that are not marked include lines for outside lighting, invisible fencing, irrigation systems, and customer fuel lines.

For more information on National Safe Digging Month, go to www.tenn811.com or visit KUB's Web site at www.kub.org/safety. Report any damage to a KUB utility line immediately by calling (865) 524-2911.

KUB is a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties and provides electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 459,000 customers.

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