

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

For more Information, contact:  
KUB Community Relations

### **Remember to Call 811 on 8-11-16 and Every Day** *Know what's below. Always call before you dig.*

KUB and other utilities nationwide are joining the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) to use August 11 (8-11-16) to remind customers and contractors about the importance of calling 811 before digging to have underground utilities marked for free.

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 scheduled to begin. Tennessee One Call will then notify KUB and other member utilities about the proposed work and the underground utilities within the requested excavation site will be marked for free with paint or flags so customers will know where to dig safely during excavation. 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 deep, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

"Calling 811 is easy and it's free," said Bill Elmore, KUB Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "KUB has nearly 7,000 miles of underground lines in its service area and received nearly 208,000 utility locate requests in 2015 related to digging near those utilities. Those utility locate requests helped avoid countless damages, but KUB responded to 371 dig-ins where the customer or contractor didn't call 811 - or didn't dig carefully enough near the marks."

A call must be placed to 811 before **every** digging project, from simple landscaping projects, like planting trees or shrubs, to building a deck or installing a mailbox. According to data compiled by CGA, there are more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the United States, which equates to more than one football field's length of underground utilities for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. By calling 811, you reduce your risk of damaging these underground lines to less than 1 percent.

Also, the free Tennessee One Call app is available to make locate requests from your mobile device. You can download Tennessee 811's mobile app for both Android and Apple devices, and have quick access to Tennessee 811's resources. This convenient new feature provides another line of communication when you are at home, in your office, or working from a job site. This app is free, and can be used to submit or check on the status of a locate request, search for locate tickets, and access the Tennessee 811 handbook among other useful tools.

For more information on Call 811, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com). For local Call 811 information, visit [www.tenn811.com](http://www.tenn811.com), or visit KUB's website at [www.kub.org](http://www.kub.org) and click on the Safety & Outages tab. To report damage to a KUB utility line, call 865-524-2911 immediately.

*KUB, a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties, provides reliable electric, gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 445,000 customers.*

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