

# Citizens Preparedness Newsletter

**CALL 811!**

## What is 811 and Why is it Important?

- 811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. It is a free service used to mark underground utilities on your property.
- Many utilities are buried just a few inches below the ground and can be anywhere!
- Some utilities may have been previously marked, but over time underground utilities can shift and move making it more difficult to know exactly where they are located.
- If an underground utility is struck and damaged during excavation, it can cause injury to the operator and others. It can also cause damage to property and vehicles in the surrounding area.
- Repair costs and fines may be assessed to the property owner if 811 wasn't utilized prior to excavation.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## How Does 811 Work?

### 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

#### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



#### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



#### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



#### 4. RESPECT

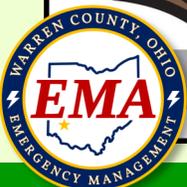
Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



#### 5. DIG

#### CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



LEARN MORE AT OHIO811: [HTTPS://OUPS.ORG/](https://oups.org/)

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## CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

**Building a Deck? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or mailbox?  
Call 8-1-1 EVERY TIME before you dig!**

There are millions of miles of buried utilities beneath the surface of the earth that are vital to everyday living like water, electricity and natural gas. Homeowners, contractors, or anyone else digging or penetrating the earth should be aware of hazards lurking underground so they can be avoided.

811 is the federally designated call-before-you-dig phone number that helps owners and professionals avoid damaging vital underground utilities. By calling 811 a few days before you dig, you'll help prevent unintentional injuries, damage to property, utility service outages, and fines and repair costs.



Locate crews will be dispatched to your area to mark your dig site with paint or flags within a few days and will make sure you know where to avoid digging so you don't hit buried utilities. Remember the depths of utility lines may vary and there may be multiple utility lines in the same area so be cautious and remain alert while digging!



### COLOR CODE FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITY MARKINGS

 WHITE Proposed Excavation	 PINK Temporary Survey Markings	 RED Electric	 YELLOW Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane	 ORANGE Communication	 BLUE Water	 PURPLE Reclaimed Water, Irrigation	 GREEN Sewer
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## Warren County 2023 Statistics

- In 2023, Warren County Communications Center received 39 reports of gas line strikes. *\*Not including occurrences in the City of Franklin or City of Lebanon.*
- At least 2 of the 39 gas line strikes caused illness of 1 or more people.
- Multiple strikes led to evacuated buildings / schools, and hours-long utility outages.
- The number of gas line strikes was significantly higher in the 3rd Quarter (July-September) than the rest of the year due to increased outdoor construction, installation of fiber optic cable, and home improvement projects.

**Don't Risk It!**

Nearly two in five U.S. homeowners will put themselves and their communities at risk this year by digging without calling 811 beforehand.\*

\*CGA 2021 Omnibus Study

Always contact 811 before digging to avoid service disruptions caused by damaging buried utilities.

**811**



## Mitigation Murphy says...

“Know what’s below. Call 811 BEFORE you dig. It’s **FREE!** Save yourself from lengthy utility outages and unexpected costs to repair damaged service lines.”

## Stay Informed:

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