



NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National 811 Day Reminds New Jersey Residents to Be Mindful of Where They Dig

TRENTON— In recognition of August 11 as National 811 Day, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP) is encouraging residents to call 811 before you excavate to ensure there are no underground utilities present.

National 811 Day is part of a year-round awareness initiative to encourage businesses and residents to take all precautions before any excavation in order to avoid damaging underground utilities, interruption of vital services, property damage, and even possible injury.

“It is extremely important that those planning to excavate call 811 before they dig to protect infrastructure, and to prevent potential serious injuries,” said NJBP President Joseph Fiordaliso. “811 Day serves as a convenient reminder to always call before digging.”

National 811 Day is an annual initiative led by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and is supported by the NJBP and stakeholder groups across the country to ensure the practice of safe digging to protect underground infrastructure.

The NJBP has direct oversight of the New Jersey One Call Center, which receives more than 700,000 calls per year resulting in over 3 million “mark outs.” A “mark out” is when a trained professional places flags or other symbols on the ground to show the location of an underground facility. Excavations are the leading cause of underground infrastructure damage.

In addition to calling 811, residents can call (800) 272-1000 or submit an online request at www.nj1-call.com.

If you think you might have to dig, even on your own property, make sure you follow these steps:

- Call 811 **at least three business days** before each project to have underground pipes, wires, and all other utilities located.
- Follow the rules outlined in N.J.A.C. 14:2 in order to plan your excavation to avoid damage and interference with underground facilities.
- Use National 811 Day as a reminder to always call 811 before digging. It's the law!

For more information on underground damage prevention and National 811 Day please visit:

www.nj.gov/bpu or www.nj-1call.com.

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New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight and responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents.

To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)

NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is www.NJCleanEnergy.com.