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*For Immediate Release*

**ARKANSAS ONE CALL AND ARKIUPS REMINDS LOCAL RESIDENTS THAT AUGUST 11 (8/11) IS 811 CONVENIENT REMINDER TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING**

*Recent survey reveals that do-it-yourself projects remain strong throughout 2012*

**Conway, AR** (August 5, 2012) - With Aug. 11 almost here, Arkansas One Call and ARKUPS hopes this date on the calendar, 8/11, will serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked. This comes on the heels of a recent survey by The National Gardening Association which found that 68 percent of households anticipate their do-it-yourself lawn and garden projects will remain the same in 2012 despite the recession.

When calling 811, homeowners are connected to the local one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint.

Additionally, with Aug. 11 falling on a Saturday, anyone planning to dig on that weekend should call 811 during the first half of the week. Arkansas One Call requires a call at least 48-hours before the planned project start date.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, building a deck and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Bob McArthur, CEO Arkansas One Call and ARKUPS. “Failure to call before digging results in more than 250,000 unintentional hits annually, and we do not want anyone’s project to become part of the statistic.”

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, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or [www.arkonecall.com](http://www.arkonecall.com) for more information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.

**AOC**  
Arkansas One-Call

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