



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**\*\*For Immediate Release\*\***  
**Phone 701-328-2400**

### **Governor Proclaims April as Safe Digging Month and urges the use of 811**

Governor Jack Dalrymple proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month to remind citizens of the potential dangers and consequences of digging without first calling North Dakota's Call-Before-You-Dig number, 811.

Each year the nation's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage by those who fail to call 811 to have underground facilities located prior to digging. Consequences from damaging an underground facility include injury or death, service interruptions or damage to the environment.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission has also endorsed Safe Digging Month, along with the Common Ground Alliance and the North Dakota One Call Board.

"Third-party damage to facilities is the single largest safety risk associated with underground utilities and in nearly all cases it can be prevented with one single call." Commission Chairman Tony Clark said.

Commissioner Brian P. Kalk said, "811 is especially important this year with the mild winter. People are getting excited for starting on yard projects and they need to take the proper steps to ensure their safety. The last thing I want is for someone to be injured or have to pay for damages that could have been avoided by calling 811."

"Having utilities located before digging is the law as well as a good idea. It is better to call 811 before digging than 911 when it is too late." said Commissioner Kevin Cramer

North Dakota law requires that anyone conducting an excavation or demolition must notify 811 in advance. Personnel will be sent to locate underground facilities at no cost to the caller. Designated by the FCC in 2005, 811 provides potential excavators and homeowners a simple number to reach their local One Call Center to request utility locations at the intended dig site.

For more information about 811, visit the North Dakota One Call Board's website at [www.ndonecall.com](http://www.ndonecall.com). For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com).

##END##