



NEWS RELEASE
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News Conferences Held Today in Conjunction with National 811 Day

BISMARCK, ND – Public Service Commission Chairman Brian Kalk and Ryan Schmaltz, Director of Education and Public Relations for ND One Call, are holding events in Fargo and Minot today to talk about the importance of the state’s Call Before You Dig program. The events are being held in conjunction with National 811 day (fittingly held on the date 8/11 each year).

Each year North Dakota’s underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to call 8-1-1 before digging. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be very damaging, including loss of telecommunications services, electricity interruptions, or in the most severe cases accidents resulting in injury or death.

“This is the first time that the Public Service Commission and ND One Call have teamed up for 811 day to continue to educate about the importance of calling before you dig,” said Commissioner Brian Kalk. “As we approach the fall and many people are working to finish projects, it’s important to take the time and call 8-1-1 before digging. Saving a little time is not worth risking a life. Remember to call or click!”

The process is simple. North Dakota law requires anyone conducting an excavation or demolition to notify ND One Call at least two days in advance of digging. Personnel will be sent to locate underground facilities at no cost to the caller, typically within a couple of days. The locates are valid for 21 days after they are placed. A request for locates can be made by calling 8-1-1 or by simply going online to www.ndonecall.com.

“We’ve tried to make it as simple and painless for anyone and everyone to request a locate. Just call 8-1-1 or log on to our website 48 hours before you start to dig, provide some basic information about the location and scope of your project and utilities will come out and mark their lines,” said Ryan Schmaltz, Director of Education and Public Relations for ND One Call. “The online option, called ITIC, is perfect for the individual who would prefer to type out their information on an online form and submit it instead of calling in and talking to an operator.”

For more information about 811, visit the North Dakota One Call website at www.ndonecall.com. For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at www.commongroundalliance.com.

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