

## News Release

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For Immediate Release

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KUB Communications

### **Safe Digging Month Highlights the Importance of Protecting Lives and Property**

*Remember to call 811 before any digging project, it's the law*

**Knoxville, TN** – April is Safe Digging Month, and KUB reminds excavators that safe digging is important to our community. Safe digging practices should be followed not just in April, but year-round by everyone. Calling 811 is required no matter the size of the project, and the service is free of charge.

Tennessee State Law requires anyone preparing to dig, excavate, demolish property, or conduct any activity that could damage underground utility lines to notify Tennessee One Call (811) of their intent to dig at least three business days before the work begins. Tennessee One Call will notify KUB and other member companies about the proposed work and the utilities at the digging site, which will be marked with paint or flags, so customers know where to dig safely. KUB reports that they receive anywhere from seven to 10 calls per week from customers reporting a “dig-in”, which is when a customer has hit an underground line. Dig-ins are dangerous to excavators, the public, and KUB responders and should be prevented by calling 811.

KUB also wants to remind excavators of the following safe digging messages:

- Damage to underground utility lines can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, cause injury or death to the excavator, and result in fines and repair costs. The depths of utility lines vary, and multiple lines may exist in the same area.
- Excavators should always use extreme caution when they dig and avoid digging within the utility safe zone. The safety zone is a strip of land extending two feet on either side of the utility.
- Customer-owned service lines such as underground electrical, water, and wastewater are not mapped and therefore may not be marked. Natural gas service lines are owned by KUB and will be marked.
- Other customer-owned buried lines that are not marked include lines for outside lighting, invisible fencing, irrigation systems, and customer fuel lines.

For more information on National Safe Digging Month, visit [www.tenn811.com](http://www.tenn811.com) or KUB’s website at [www.kub.org/safety](http://www.kub.org/safety). Report any damage to a KUB utility line immediately by calling (865) 524-2911.

As part of KUB’s ongoing efforts to provide safe and reliable natural gas, customers are encouraged to take KUB’s natural gas awareness survey online at [www.kub.org/gas](http://www.kub.org/gas).

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*KUB provides more than 501,000 customers in Knoxville and parts of seven surrounding counties with safe and reliable electric, fiber, natural gas, wastewater treatment, and water services.*