

March 2016

Dear Damage Prevention and Safety Partner:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to safety.

Please join us in the observance of the 9th annual National Safe Digging Month (NSDM) in April and help to spread the word about the importance of calling JULIE (the Illinois One-Call System) at 811 before any digging projects. This is a free call and service.

Working with our damage prevention and safety partners across the state, our goal is to reduce the risk of striking underground utility lines and potentially causing environmental or property damage, personal injury and inconvenient outages. According to the Common Ground Alliance, every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling a one-call notification center, such as JULIE, across the nation.

### **3 WAYS TO PROMOTE SAFE DIGGING MONTH**

Here are three ways that you can help our not-for-profit organization remind residents in your community about the importance of calling JULIE this spring:

1. **Share.** Post “We Support JULIE. Call 811.”, “Call JULIE Before You Dig.” and “April is Safe Digging Month.” messages via social media. Please use #JULIE1Call and #811.
2. **Display.** Promote safe digging practices in your community newsletter, post an 811 banner or message on the sign/marquee in the front of your fire department and/or municipal building(s). Here are a few examples of messages for consideration:
  - April is Safe Digging Month. Call JULIE at 811.
  - Know What’s Below. Call JULIE at 811.
  - Safe Digging is No Accident. Call JULIE at 811.
  - Call 811 Now So You Don’t Have to Call 911 Later. (This suggestion was submitted and posted by a fire department in Illinois).
3. **Educate.** Distribute education materials at safety forums, community and “touch a truck” events or open houses throughout the year. For a complete list of free materials or to place an order, visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

### **ENTER THE 811 PHOTO CONTEST**

Enter to win up to a \$100 gift card or a V-Watch Personal Voltage Detector donated by the Northern and Central Illinois and Southern Illinois Pipeline Associations. For more information or to enter, visit: 1. [www.illinois1call.com/photocontest](http://www.illinois1call.com/photocontest); 2. [www.facebook.com/JULIE1call](http://www.facebook.com/JULIE1call); or 3. [www.twitter.com/JULIE1call](http://www.twitter.com/JULIE1call).

We have a very limited quantity of 4’ x 8’ banners still available at no cost. If you are interested in receiving a banner or have any questions about this safety campaign, contact Barb Owen, JULIE’s Public Relations Manager, at 815-741-5936 or via e-mail at [owen@julie1call.com](mailto:owen@julie1call.com).

Thank you for your ongoing support and assistance.

Sincerely,

*Kevin T. Chmura*

Kevin T. Chmura  
Director of Public Relations



Mark A. Frost, *Executive Director*

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