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Gov. Beshear Proclaims August 11 “Kentucky 811 Underground Facility Protection Day”

Focus is on preventing damage to buried utility lines by calling 811 before digging.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (August 11, 2025) Governor Andy Beshear has issued a proclamation designating August 11 as ‘Kentucky 8-1-1 Underground Facility Protection Day’. He encourages all Kentuckians to familiarize themselves with and comply with the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act utilizing the Kentucky 811 service.

The 811 number was adopted in 2007 as an easy-to-remember number to call to have utilities located prior to excavation. Legislation was passed requiring underground utility lines to be located and marked prior to most excavation or demolition activity. August 11 is nationally Safe Digging Day as a joint effort by state and federal safety regulators, underground utility location call centers (811 centers), pipeline operators, and others to draw attention to the Call-Before-You-Dig requirement and the need to use safe excavation methods.

Kentucky Public Service Commission Chair Angie Hatton said that digging into buried lines is more than just a problem for utility companies. “The PSC recognizes that damaged underground facilities interrupt vital services, damage property, and, in the case of gas and electric lines, can even cause injury or death,”. “Despite ongoing efforts to promote the use of 811, dig-ins continue to happen. This is why we emphasize the importance of using the 811 'Call Before You Dig'. It's a simple, free call that can prevent significant disruptions, costly repairs, and even save lives.”

Since August 1, 2024, 886 damages have been reported to the PSC, averaging 2.42 strikes per day, slightly below the rate from the previous year. Recent data indicates that nearly 23 percent of all violations occurred because KY 811 was not contacted to obtain a locate ticket.



“This is the first step in the damage prevention process and is required by law,” said Brandon Bruner, Director of the PSC’s Division of Inspections. “To address the lack of awareness, we’ve expanded our education and outreach efforts by hosting free trainings and seminars across the state, sponsoring damage prevention conferences and back-to-school supply boxes, and most recently, partnering with KCTCS to offer scholarships for individuals pursuing careers that may involve working near underground facilities.”

Kentucky 811 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To obtain locations for underground facilities owned by utility service providers that do not belong to Kentucky 811, it is necessary to notify the company directly. A list of all owners of underground utility lines may be obtained from the county clerk. More information about Kentucky 811 is available at its website, www.kentucky811.org.

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.

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