



NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PRESS RELEASE

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April Declared “Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Month”

-Everyone is Reminded to Call 811 Before Digging-

TRENTON, NJ- Today, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Joseph L. Fiordaliso announced a proclamation from Governor Phil Murphy declaring April 2018 as “Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Month,” highlighting the importance of the New Jersey Underground Facility Protection Act.

The Act requires excavators and facility operators to participate in the One Call Damage Prevention System known as “Call Before you Dig”. As part of the System, excavators must provide operators with their notice of intent to excavate by calling 811 at least three business days prior to excavation. Governor Murphy’s proclamation raises awareness of the law and the importance of protecting New Jersey’s vital underground infrastructure, including pipelines, conduits, wires, and cables.

“It is extremely important for New Jersey residents and anyone planning to excavate to call before they dig to protect infrastructure, and to prevent potential serious injuries,” said NJBPU President Joseph Fiordaliso. “New Jersey has one of the strongest underground damage prevention programs in the nation and Governor Murphy’s proclamation highlights the importance of this law not only in April, but in every other month as well.”

The BPU has direct oversight of the 24/7 New Jersey One Call Center which receives over 700,000 calls per year resulting in over 3 million “mark outs.” A “mark out” is when a trained professional places flags or other symbols on the ground to show the location of an underground facility. This free service is essential to avoid serious injuries, service disruptions, and costly repairs to critical utility services. Excavations are the leading cause of underground infrastructure damage.

As part of Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Month, New Jersey encourages all those planning to dig to take the following steps:

- Call 811 at least three full business days before each project to have underground pipes, wires and all underground facilities located. Underground facility operators will place color coded markers or paint where facilities are buried.
- National Dig Safe Month is to heighten awareness to promote excavation safety for all.
- Call 811 before digging, it's the law!
- Visit www.call811.com for complete information

About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight and responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents.

To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP)

NJCEP, established on January 22, 2003, in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), and its website is www.NJCleanEnergy.com.

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