



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 2, 2012

CONTACT:
Cathy Landry
202-216-5913

April is National Safe Digging Month. Celebrate by calling 811 before digging.

WASHINGTON—An underground pipeline or utility line is damaged by a digging project once every three minutes in the United States. Take a moment during the month of April – National Safe Digging Month – to remember always to dial 811 when you plan a digging project – whether it is a large commercial or industrial project or simply installing a mailbox.

“The goal is for 8-1-1 to be as familiar to Americans as 9-1-1,” said INGAA President and CEO Don Santa. “Millions of Americans live or work near or on top of underground pipelines or other utilities. We can all do our part in making sure everyone is safe by calling before we dig. It is especially important to spread the word about safe digging especially this year, the fifth anniversary National Safe Digging Month and 8-1-1.”

The toll-free 811 number works in every state. The call center will help identify the location of underground utilities on your property, and if necessary, send a professional – at no cost – to mark the location on your property of gas lines; telephone, television or internet cables; electric lines; or other elements of the underground infrastructure, so you avoid them.

Each year, failure to call 811 results in more than 60,000 unintentional hits of underground utilities across the U.S. Striking a pipeline or utility line can cause an injury or even a fatality, and result in repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. A simple call can help avoid this. So, call the national 811 number every time you embark on a digging project – whether shallow or deep.

Be safe. Call before you dig. Every time you dig.

Visit www.call811.com this April, or any other day, to learn more about 811 and safe digging practices.

###

INGAA is the North American association representing the interstate and interprovincial natural gas pipeline industry. INGAA's members operate approximately 200,000 miles of pipelines, and serve as an indispensable link between natural gas producers and consumers.