



Holland Board of Public Works PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH, CALL MISS DIG BEFORE STARTING THAT OUTDOOR DIGGING PROJECT

With warmer weather quickly approaching, it's finally time to start those outdoor home improvement projects. Whether you're a homeowner or a contractor taking on a project for a client, it's important to remember to call 811 before you break ground. Calling 811 will help ensure that underground utility lines are not struck and that the digger doesn't cause personal harm during the project.

All homeowners and contractors are responsible for having underground utility lines marked prior to digging — no matter how large or small the project — so as not to incur costly fines and repairs, personal injury, or inconvenient outages to the entire community. This national call-before-you-dig number, 811, was created to help do-it-yourselfers and contractors ensure that the approximate locations of utility lines are marked before digging.

Here's how it works. At least 3 business days prior to digging, call MISS DIG by dialing 811. A MISS DIG representative will record the location of the digging site and notify utility companies of the intent to dig. Utility companies will then send out a professional locator to your digging site to mark the approximate location of utility lines. Once your lines have been marked, you may begin to carefully excavate around the marked lines. To help the professional utility locators, please mark out the area where you plan to dig with white paint or by placing a white flag.

This is not only a FREE service, but it's the LAW in Michigan to call 811 three (3) business days before you dig. Whether you are installing a mailbox, fence, deck, landscaping or replacing your septic sewer line, you must to call before you dig.

April is National Safe Digging Month. More than 256,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the U.S. 35% of all U.S. digging damages result from not calling before digging. Some utilities are buried only a few inches below the surface. Don't let your project become a statistic. Know what's below. Call before you dig.

For additional information regarding safe digging practices, please call 811, visit www.call811.com or www.missdig.org. Information about the Holland BPW's utility locating service can be found online at www.hollandbpw.com.

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For more information, contact:
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