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**ICC Urges Excavators, Homeowners To**

**Call 811 Before You Dig**

The Illinois Commerce Commission Wednesday adopted a resolution reminding homeowners and professional excavators to call the national 811 “Call Before You Dig” telephone number to avoid damaging buried utility lines.

Illinois law requires everyone to call 811 to reach JULIE, (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators), regardless of the depth of the project, at least 48 hours/two working days prior to the start of excavation. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call in order to make sure the markings are not erased by weather. A locate request has a 28 day life, so if excavation is going to extend past 28 days, or if markings have become faded or destroyed, an additional call to JULIE is necessary.

Call center representatives at JULIE are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One phone call to 811 or an e-request through the website [illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois.1call.com/) can prevent service outages, injuries and even death. It can also save the homeowner or professional excavator the cost of repairs to damaged utility service lines and for utility operators or excavators, costly fines for violations of the Illinois Underground Utilities Facilities Damage Prevention Act.

ICC staff reported that 125 warnings and 86 citations were issued in 2014 resulting in $82,867 in penalties for not having a valid locate request, not digging carefully around marked underground utility facilities and for utilities that failed to mark their facilities in a timely manner. The ICC levied penalties as part of its One-Call enforcement efforts.

JULIE provides locate notice to utilities throughout the entire state of Illinois, except within the city limits of Chicago. If digging inside the Chicago city limits, you can contact DIGGER by dialing the same 811 number.

**What is 811?**

811 is an FCC designated number for homeowners and professional excavators to call before digging. 811 calls will be directed to the appropriate state’s One Call Center. The affected utilities will then mark underground lines for free. For more information, visit the ICC’s website at [www.icc.illinois.gov](http://www.icc.illinois.gov) or JULIE, Inc. at [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).