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## **For Immediate Release**

### **April 2019 is National Safe Digging Month**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**Connecticut-statewide information-Hamden, CT-(April 2, 2019)-**The efforts of Call Before You Dig, Inc. (CBYD) are being observed during National Safe Digging Month in April. Call Before You Dig, Inc. is reminding Connecticut residents and companies that conduct excavation work using power or mechanized equipment that state law mandates that they notify Call Before You Dig by logging onto their website, [www.CBYD.com](http://www.CBYD.com), for an "e-ticket" available to the public or by calling **811** two (2) full working days prior to starting any work. **It's the law and it's free.**

The law requires homeowners and contractors planning to excavate with mechanized equipment to notify CBYD at least two full working days prior to digging. CBYD protects against the accidental digging up of buried facilities whenever excavation occurs in order to protect the public, decrease utility service disruptions, reduce the high cost of damage repairs and prevent injury or worse. There are past stories of injury and death in Connecticut due to accidental dig ups and we would like to take that number of future stories to zero.

Landscaping and construction projects resume in April every year, and they can bring the danger of exposure to hits on vital public utility lines. Digging without knowing what is below the surface risks causing property damage, injury and even death, according to representatives of Call Before You Dig, a non-profit corporation that is responsible for operating a call center in Hamden to handle excavation notifications as well as making the public aware of the danger of digging blindly. The organization is comprised of a clearinghouse of owners and operators of underground utility facilities since 1974, including gas, electric, water and communications companies to protect utilities and public safety.

Anthony R. Willemain, the Call Before You Dig Center Manager, reiterated the message by stating, "If you are digging with power or mechanized equipment, it is the law to ***"Call Before You Dig!"*** Even if you are excavating by hand, it is smart and safe to ***"Call Before You Dig!"*** April brings warm weather to Connecticut. Construction crews are gearing up for the dig season and homeowners are anxious to begin those outdoor projects. That is why April is ***"Call Before You Dig Month,"*** reminding everyone of the importance to know what's below! Notify **CBYD two working days** in advance to have the location of buried utility pipes and cable lines located and marked out. Contact us at [www.CBYD.com](http://www.CBYD.com) or call "811" to avoid digging accidents."

CBYD's mission is to "Provide communication and education to improve safety when excavating". Examples of projects requiring a call to **811** would be digging for a new pool, a mailbox, landscaping and planting trees, or a deck. Digging only a few inches can pose risks.

CBYD wants to make the public aware of the need for safety of our state's utilities that we use on a daily basis but generally take for granted such as 911 calls or airline traffic communications. CBYD also provides guidelines in separate manuals for professional excavators and homeowners on its website, [www.CBYD.com](http://www.CBYD.com). Homeowners or excavators can simply call **811 at no cost** and the CBYD staff will guide people through the process to protect against a range of problems, from the inconvenience of disrupted utility service to the potential of explosions or electrocutions.

PURA, the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, provides governmental oversight to the CBYD program. They play the role of the enforcer for CBYD and excavators. If somebody violates the regulations, PURA will investigate it, bring them in for a hearing and possibly prosecute them with fines.

CBYD has a user-friendly damage reporting tool on their website along with a user guide. **DamageAccess** is a web-based tool that allows anyone to report both damages to underground utility facilities and violations of safe excavating practices that did not result in asset damage. PURA oversees these reports. **Please see this link to DamageAccess:** <https://www.cbyd.com/damage-reporting>

Compliance with this law not only ensures the safety of people and property, it also protects excavators and people digging from fines and lawsuits. We all share responsibility for our safety. **It's free and it's the law.** If someone is unsure, please make the call to **811** or visit [www.CBYD.com](http://www.CBYD.com) to learn how to dig safely. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Please visit [www.CBYD.com](http://www.CBYD.com) for more information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.