Missouri homeowners and contractors are required to contact the Missouri One Call System by calling 811 or 1-800-DIG-RITE (1-800-344-7483) at least three business days prior to an excavation project. **Make the Call...It’s the Law.**

When Missouri One Call is contacted, it will alert the appropriate underground facility owners of the intent to dig. The underground facility owners will then identify any underground lines or facilities at the work site and have those lines marked. **Remember, respect the marks and dig carefully.**

How It Works

The Missouri One Call System is a communications system which was established to help prevent damage to underground facilities and to promote safety. Missouri One Call operators are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Missouri One Call provides a telephone number for contractors and the general public to call for notification of their intent to use equipment for excavation, grading, blasting, boring, demolition or other types of similar work.

1-800-DIG-RITE or 811

**MAKE THE CALL...IT’S THE LAW**
It’s The Law

Every day in Missouri, underground utility lines are hit and damaged due to digging or excavation work. On average, natural gas lines alone are hit approximately 200 times each month in Missouri.

In addition, results from a Public Service Commission staff survey indicate that the number of excavation damages to all utilities regulated by the Commission total approximately 1,000 a month.

Striking a single line can cause injury or death, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

Many of these incidents could be avoided if excavators and homeowners call Missouri One Call before they start a digging project and then use extreme caution to carefully dig after underground lines are located and marked.

Approximately 35 to 40 percent of reported hits to underground facilities are caused by careless digging around properly marked areas.

Marks only represent the “approximate location” of a facility. The law defines this as the width of the facility PLUS two feet on either side.

It’s As Easy As 8-1-1

Excavators, construction workers, businesses and homeowners embarking on a digging project around their home or business are required by law to contact Missouri One Call at 811 or 1-800-DIG-RITE (1-800-344-7483) at least three business days before beginning any digging or excavation work.

After you make the call, the law requires that all utilities with underground facilities affected by the excavation determine if the planned dig is near any underground facilities. If needed, they will survey and mark the area where utility lines are located.

Do not begin any digging until all of the utilities in the area have been located and marked, or you have been notified that there are no facilities in the area where you are excavating.

Respect The Marks

After it is determined that markings are required, the facility owner will dispatch personnel to the site. They will locate and mark the underground utilities in the excavation site with paint, stakes or flags. Utilities mark their facilities according to specific guidelines and color codes. For instance, underground natural gas lines are marked in yellow, water lines in blue and communications lines in orange.

Remember, the depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.