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For Immediate Release



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Governor Malloy Proclaims April 2018 Call Before You Dig Month

Connecticut-statewide information-Hamden, CT-(March 30, 2018)-The efforts of Call Before You Dig, Inc. (CBYD) were backed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, who named April "Call Before You Dig Month" in Connecticut. April is also National Safe Digging Month. Malloy issued a proclamation 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, 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 individuals, contractors, utilities and public agencies planning to excavate with mechanized equipment to notify CBYD at least two full working days prior to digging," Malloy said in his proclamation. "CBYD guards against the accidental digging up of buried facilities whenever excavation, whether by digging, blasting or demolishing, is undertaken in order to protect the public, decrease utility service disruptions and reduce the high cost of damage repairs". He went on to say that "CBYD has a proven record of reducing damage to underground facilities, protecting property and providing for the safety and welfare of both excavators and the general public".

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 Governor Malloy has proclaimed April **"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 or call **"811"** to avoid digging accidents."

CBYD's mission is to "Provide communication and education to improve safety when excavating". CBYD's Vice President, Derek J. Brown said that in the U.S. an underground utility line is damaged every 6 minutes because someone decided to dig without first calling **811**. 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 the risk of striking an underground utility, so they must be marked and avoided.

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. 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.

CBYD has updated their website to be very user-friendly with a lot of new features, namely a new Damage Reporting Tool. **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. Each report must be approved by a supervisor from the reporting company to confirm the accuracy of the content before being submitted to PURA for their review. Completed reports must be received by PURA within 30 days of the incident occurrence. A user guide is available there for download to help you through the process as a new user. **Please see this link to DamageAccess:** <https://www.cbyd.com/damage-reporting>

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. 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 to learn how to dig safely. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Please visit www.CBYD.com for more information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.