

What is NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH?

April is designated National Safe Digging (NSDM) Month to create public awareness about preventable digging accidents that can be devastating, destructive, and costly. In 2020, more than 31% of all utility strikes occurred because a call was not made to 811 prior to digging. In addition, 49% of homeowners who plan to dig this year will risk digging without contacting 811 beforehand. More than half (58%) of homeowners reported experiencing a utility service interruption during the last 12 months. NSDM bring awareness to the public about the dangers of digging blindly and reminds people to call 811 before they dig.

Why is SAFE DIGGING MONTH important?

On July 10, 2018, in Prairie Sun, Wisconsin, VCTech workers struck an underground gas line. The contractor was drilling to install fiber optic communication cable for Verizon. Volunteer Fire Captain Cory Barr was killed fighting the fire, two other firefighters were injured, five buildings were destroyed, and several others were damaged.

In Durham, North Carolina on April 10, 2019, Optic Cable workers struck a three-quarter inch underground gas line. The damaged line caused natural gas to collect in surrounding buildings prior to igniting and exploding, killing a café owner and a utility worker responding to the reported leak. More than a dozen structures were damaged.

In both cases the root cause was failure to call 811 before digging.

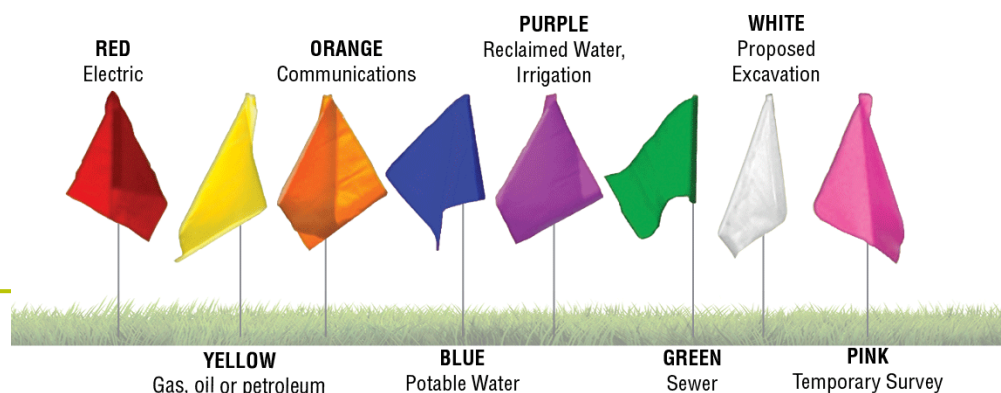
What is 811?

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to connect professionals and homeowners to a representative from your state's 811 center to request locations of all underground utilities in advance of breaking ground. The Common Ground Alliance is an organization dedicated to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices through a public education campaign to call 811 before you dig.

How does 811 work?

When someone calls 811 in the United States, he or she is connected to the local 811 call center, where a representative collects information about the caller's planned dig site. The one call center then communicates the information to the appropriate utility companies, which send professional utility locating technicians to identify and mark the approximate location of lines in a few days of the request. Once lines have been marked, the caller may dig safely around the marks.

What do the utility flag colors indicate?





Vactor Manufacturing Inc.
1621 S. Illinois Street
Streator, Illinois 61364
815.672.3171 • truvac.com

What is the connection between safe digging, Vactor Manufacturing, and the TRUVAC® brand?

As part of the Environmental Solutions Group of Federal Signal, Vactor Manufacturing is committed to environmentally sustainable operating practices in our facilities and the incorporation of environmentally beneficial technologies into our products. We recognize that sustainability means more than just thinking of the planet that we live on; it also means supporting the communities that we live in.

Located in Streator, Illinois, Vactor® Manufacturing has a 100+ year history and currently employs six hundred highly skilled workers. Vactor Manufacturing proudly produces industry leading sewer cleaners and hydro excavators.

TRUVAC was founded by Vactor Mfg., Inc., the proven leader in quality vacuum excavation, to elevate their focus on vacuum excavators and safe-digging. Now, all that experience and all that dedication to excellence and innovation is packed into every TRUVAC vacuum excavator. TRUVAC products are the safest method of excavation. Using patented DigRIGHT® technology to satisfy the most stringent safe-digging requirements, TRUVAC continues to meet the evolving standards of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). The SUE process is now used routinely by state agencies on every DOT project. Potholing and daylighting with air and hydro excavation has revolutionized the way subsurface utilities are located and avoided, preventing significant project costs, and minimizing incalculable risks.

Quality and performance make digging with TRUVAC smart. So does the speed. The precision. The productivity. The safety. TRUVAC vacuum excavators are the most dependable and most advanced vacuum excavators in the industry. That's why we say digging with TRUVAC is digging smart.

Visit <https://www.truvac.com/safe-digging> for more information.
