

IN THE TRENCHES

PROTECTING FACILITIES, FAMILIES AND THE FUTURE

April Newsletter 2021

CAUTION GAS LINE BURIED BELOW



Know what's below.
Call **MISS DIG** **811**
before you dig.



April, National Safe Digging Month

National **Safe Digging Month** serves as a reminder to all people who excavate or **dig** in the state of Michigan to call MISS DIG 811, at least 3 business days before **digging**, to have the approximate location of their utility lines marked. This process helps prevent injuries, property damage, and inconvenient utility outages.

Traditionally, April brings a ground swell of outdoor work which often includes digging. Whether it is a small project or a large home improvement project, National Safe Digging Month is a way to remind us all to call MISS DIG 811 before starting any digging project.

Did you know, every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling MISS DIG 811? The risk of injury, or even death is serious. Beyond the devastating risks of death or injury, consider the costs of repair, fines and even inconvenience. From putting in a fence, planting a tree or building a deck, knowing where the power and water lines before you dig will save a lot of time, money and pain later.

Call MISS DIG 811 before you dig.
Use #NationalSafeDiggingMonth or
#CallBeforeYouDig to post on social



media and spread the word to remind others how important it is. You may think it's an inconvenient step to take before you get to work, but keep in mind that there's a reason these rules are in place. It can be extremely dangerous if you fail to make that quick phone call before you start digging. Here are the four main things to remember if you plan to dig this month (or any month, for that matter!)

1. Call or go online to MISS DIG 811 three business days before you plan to dig. All you have to do is give the address or general location of the project, when you plan to start, and how much digging you'll be doing.
2. Make sure you dig parallel with the utility line and use precautions when you are removing soil from near the utility line.
3. Use smaller hand tools while digging within 18 inches either side of the outer edge of underground utility lines.
4. Keep an eye out for signs of a natural gas leak. If you smell something similar to rotten eggs, or hear hissing, whistling, or roaring, it's likely a leak.

HISTORY

National Safe Digging Month (NSDM) began in 2008 as a way to encourage all CGA (Common Ground Alliance) stakeholders to promote the safe digging message in one voice during one strategic month when digging activity begins in earnest nationwide.



Enter for a chance to win a 65-inch flat-screen TV as a way for MISS DIG 811 to show their appreciation for your commitment to keeping our communities safe!



April is National Safe Digging Month, and MISS DIG 811 is asking for the support of municipalities and fire departments by reminding their communities to contact MISS DIG 811 before any digging projects and sharing our message of safe excavation practices around buried facilities!

Emergency responders, are often first on the scene in the event of a gas leak, fire, or injury caused by utility strikes, and our appreciation for your efforts cannot be overstated.

We'd like to revive a program that can help spread awareness of the importance of contacting MISS DIG 811 prior to digging. Through this campaign, we can hopefully lessen the number of utility strike events, while at the same time provide an opportunity to enhance your fire station.

Contest Requirements:

- Share the MISS DIG 811 message on your marquee or hang a banner anywhere visible to your community during the month of April.



Click the image above to request a banner (limited number available)

- Take a photo of the marquee, banner, or website with MISS DIG 811 message and include it as a comment to the pinned "April is Safe Digging Month" post at the top of our Facebook timeline or email the photo to education@missdig811.org
- Once you have done this, you will be entered into the contest to win the 65-inch flat-screen TV.
- The contest runs from April 1 to April 30. The winner will be chosen May 3.

Marquee suggestions:

Be Smart. Be Safe. Call 811 Before You Dig
April Is Safe Digging Month. Always call MISS DIG 811 before you dig.
Know what's below. Call MISS DIG 811 before you dig.

If you would like to add information to your website, please use the banner at the top of this email, or click on the button below for additional information:

[MISS DIG 811 Municipal Website Info](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Are you having problems
with a facility not responding
in positive response?**



The Community Outreach Team is taking the lead on trying to minimize the **999 – HAS NOT RESPONDED** line item that you sometimes see when checking Positive Response. As always, attempt to mitigate the situation by retransmitting your ticket and reaching out to the facility owner yourself. If the facility owner does not respond after repeated attempts, inform us by using the **999 - Has Not Responded** tab below. We also offer a great resource to

everyone called the Status Update Meeting. Status Update Meetings take place every Monday morning at 10:00 AM. There is a round table at the end of every meeting where participants can bring up current problems that are being experienced. The Status Update Meetings are brief, usually 5 to 15 minutes in duration. To become a participant in the Status Update Meetings please contact MISS DIG 811 CEO, Bruce Campbell at: bcampbell@missdig811.org
Our goal is to help dramatically reduce the number of damages to underground facilities to keep our citizens & infrastructure safe!

Excavators: Inform us about a non-responsive facility owner by clicking the button to the right

999 - Has Not Responded

Facility Owners: Are you aware that a Positive Response post is needed for EVERY facility on a ticket before an excavator can legally start digging? If you are sent a ticket, you are required to respond to it even if the digging is actually taking place in a bordering municipality. In this case you can use the **001 – NO CONFLICT** response.

MONEY SAVER!! With the billing that started in 2020, the membership fee is calculated based on the number of transmissions. So, if an excavator must send out multiple re-transmits requesting a response from your facility you, and every other facility owner on that ticket, is charged for each transmission. So, responding to each ticket before the Response Due Date, is a money saver for your facility and every other MISS DIG 811 member near you!!!!

Everyone is Invited!! If you would like to have a conversation to learn more about the above topics or any MISS DIG 811 related item, click the button to the right.

Community Outreach Invitation

FREE, Would you like MISS DIG 811 brochures and posters?

Do you need some MISS DIG 811 brochures to refill the supply you were already given? Or if you have not received any, would you like some to make available or hand out to:

- Homeowners/Companies visiting your site
- Homeowners working outside their homes without contacting MISS DIG 811
- Companies working on a job site who have not followed MISS DIG 811 rules

Click on the MISS DIG 811 poster to order



Contact your Community Outreach Team:

Colleen Goddard cgoddard@missdig811.org or at 906-789-3083

Paul Harding pharding@missdig811.org or at 248-370-6426

Saving Lives through Education

April 6-8, 2021 – Online, Worldwide.

Since 2004, the Excavation Safety Conference has been providing critical education to the damage prevention industry to help all stakeholder groups; providing opportunities to network with industry peers, learn safe practices, and lower costs associated with underground damages.



Global Excavation Safety Conference

The Educational Mobile Unit is on the Move in April!



ESCANABA KIWANIS HOME & GARDEN SHOW

APRIL 9, 10, 11, 2021

Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds, 2404 12th Ave N, Escanaba, Michigan 49829

Construction Angels Trade Clay Shoot

Friday, April 16, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EDT

Grand Blanc Huntsman's Club, 9046 Irish Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439

U.P Home and Garden Show

APRIL 23, 24, 25, 2021

WESTWOOD MALL, MARQUETTE, MI

The Education Mobile Unit (E.M.U.) was created to travel throughout the state to bring awareness to buried underground and submerged utilities. We travel upon request to schools, annual meetings, home improvement stores and shows, local neighborhoods and much, much more. Look for us in a neighborhood near you or contact us for a visit from the E.M.U. at education@missdig811.org or call (248) 370-6424

RTE Forums

- Refresh your skills
- Join an RTE Forum Webinar



- Two RTE Forums held each month
- April Topic: Mapping Tools & Features
- RTE Forums- Tuesday, April 20th at 9:00 AM and Thursday, April 22nd at 1:00 PM

For more information or to register contact:

Web Ticket Department at:
webticketdept@missdig811.org

"Digging In" - MISS DIG 811 Podcast

Tune in to each segment of "Digging-In", hosted by MISS DIG 811's Education Specialist Eric Urbain. The programs will center around a particular topic or feature interviews with industry professionals or various facility owners/operators regarding damage prevention. New episodes will follow weekly on Monday's at 10am.

If you would like to be a guest on MISS DIG 811's "Digging-In" podcast or have a topic you would like to hear more about, please contact Eric Urbain at: urbain@missdig811.org

Follow the link below for the "Digging-In" archive of podcasts:

<https://digging-in.simplecast.com/episodes/episode-1-miss-dig-811-50-years-of-damage-prevention>



A Special Video for "Safe Digging Month" !



MISS DIG 811 on Social Media



In honor of April being National Safe Digging Month and Arbor Day, MISS DIG 811 will host a weekly Facebook contest for a free tree! Message us

your reason for planting a tree this year. A winner will be selected from the entries each Friday in April and contacted the following Monday to make arrangements. Good luck and Happy Safe Digging Month!



Weight Restriction Update



MDOT 2021 Spring Weight Restrictions Bulletin #5

Effective Friday, April 2, 2021, 6 a.m., weight restrictions will be lifted on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border north to the Mackinac Bridge. Frost restrictions are still in effect for the remainder of the state and will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways north of the Mackinac Bridge.

State trunk line highways typically carry M, I or US designations.

Weight Restriction information and updates may be obtained by calling 1-800-787-8960. For companies located in Canada or New Jersey, information may be obtained by calling 517-335-0023.

On routes designated as "All Season Routes" (green & gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weight. On routes designated as "Seasonal" (solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a reduction of 25% for rigid pavements and 35% for flexible pavements.

Extended permits will be valid for oversize only in the weight restricted area.

Single trip permits will not be issued for overweight or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles and 150 feet in overall length in the weight restricted area.

Detailed weight restriction information may be obtained by linking to www.michigan.gov/truckers. Please refer to MDOT Truck Operators Map for route designations.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Bukoski at glennbukoski@thinkmita.org, or Rachelle VanDeventer at rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org, or call them at the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

MDOT Spring Weight Restriction
Bulletins

County Jurisdiction Road Restrictions

