OHIO811's Role in Underground Damage Prevention Through Safe Excavation

OHIO811 serves as the "Call Before You Dig" protection service in Ohio, connecting those with a need to excavate with those who own, operate, or maintain underground utilities.

Notifying OHIO811 is a free public safety service available to all Ohioans. OHIO811 is a 501(c)(6), not-for-profit organization who is funded through member participation and not through tax-payer dollars.

How Does This Work?

When planning to excavate, the person responsible for digging provides a notice to OHIO811. The information regarding planned excavations received by OHIO811 is then transmitted to registered utilities in the excavation area, so these utilities can identify and mark their buried lines with flags, paint, or stakes.

Ohio law requires any person digging to notify OHIO811 prior to beginning their work, this includes homeowners, professional excavators, utilities, municipalities, and any individual or entity disturbing the surface of the earth.

Key Details:

Notifying OHIO811 is simple by dialing **8-1-1**, or using remote tools on the **OHIO811 mobile app** or **OHIO811.org**. Notify at least 2 working days, not including the day of the notification, before beginning any excavation.

- 'Working Days' do not include weekends or legal holidays.
- Excavation must begin within 16 calendar days of the notification being placed.
- When hiring a contractor to excavate on your property, they are required to notify OHIO811 of their work. Please confirm with all contractors if they have made their 8-1-1 notice prior to beginning work on your property.
- Utilities are responsible to identify and mark their buried lines.
  - The excavator will receive an email confirmation upon making their excavation notice *and* a status email (known as 'Positive Response') when the 2 working day notice has passed.

Are all Utilities Notified by Calling 8-1-1?

Ohio law requires utility owners with underground facilities to register with OHIO811; these **registered utilities are notified by contacting OHIO811**. However, be aware that not all utilities have registered with OHIO811.

Note: Private lines and service lines may not be marked by notifying OHIO811. These can be identified by a third party private utility locator. Learn more about private lines here: OHIO811.org/private-utility-locating/

Homeowner Information

Planning to dig in Ohio? Find out who must notify OHIO811, how to call or submit online, and what happens after your dig notification is submitted.

FAQs

Get quick answers on OHIO811's FAQ page about safe digging, excavation guidelines, submitting 8-1-1 notices, and damage prevention in Ohio.

The Law

Get a clear overview of Ohio underground damage laws, ORC sections, OUDPC resources, and training options for professionals.

When Excavation Damages a Utility

What Happens When a Utility is Damaged from Excavation?



When excavation damages a buried utility, the first action should always be the same: stop work, get everyone to safety, and secure the area until appropriate parties have been notified and mobilized.

Next, report the damage to the appropriate parties immediately. Quick, accurate reporting helps everyone work together to protect life, mitigate the hazard, safely restore services, and prevent similar incidents in the future.

Safety First

Ohio law requires <u>all</u> utility damages from excavation to be reported to:

- **OHIO811**
- **The damaged utility***
- **The appropriate emergency response agencies if the damage results in escaping flammable, corrosive, explosive, or toxic liquids or gas.**

**If the owner of the damaged utility is unknown, reporting to OHIO811 satisfies this requirement*

OHIO811 then submits this notification to all utilities in the affected area. OHIO811.org/damagereporting

Complaint Filing and Resources

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Aggrieved persons can report alleged compliance failures to the PUCO to be investigated by the Underground Technical Committee (UTC). Consumer Complaints can be made to 800-686-7826

Local Officials

Contact the appropriate governing authority for the locality, area, or region for additional resources.

Ohio Excavation: Stats and Safeguards

How frequently excavation occurs and what steps are taken to continuously enhance public safety

In 2025, OHIO811 received nearly **1.7 million excavation notifications**.

For each of these, **between 6 & 7 utilities** were identified in the excavation area & notified by OHIO811.

In total, OHIO811 submitted approximately **10.5 million notices to utilities** to identify & mark their lines.

What does this mean?

Ohio is experiencing an unprecedented amount of infrastructure growth. With this extraordinary activity seen across our state, the overall low number of incidents experienced relative to this increased volume demonstrates that Ohio's safe excavation practices are working effectively.

What else is being done to make things even safer?

OHIO811 facilitates public safety conversations across the state and is Ohio's premier source for underground damage prevention education. Education and Outreach are delivered through online resources and in-person educational presentations to all stakeholders, including homeowners, industry professionals, businesses, and communities.

OHIO811 actively engages with local, state, and national officials to promote safe excavation through underground damage prevention initiatives by providing experienced insight in regards to best practices and future legislation.

Initiated by OHIO811, the **Ohio Underground Damage Prevention Coalition (OUDPC)** is a collaborative group of industry leaders, stakeholders, and advocates dedicated to enhancing safe excavation practices through meaningful updates to Ohio's excavation laws. OHIO811 serves as the Secretary, facilitator, and repository of data and information to serve the industry.

Safety isn't just a word; it's a shared responsibility to protect our communities and the vital utility infrastructure that keeps our state running.

media@oups.org | OHIO811.org | Admin: 800-311-3692 | Call Center: 800-362-2764 or 8-1-1