



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR VALERIE ESPINOZA (DISTRICT 3)

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2013

PRC's Espinoza Promotes Importance of Safe Digging Using New Mexico 811

SANTA FE — Are you planning on installing a pool, putting in a new sprinkler system, or maybe planting a tree? If the answer is yes, Public Regulation Commission Valerie Espinoza would like to remind you to call 811 before you dig. It's the law.

Whether you're a business owner or homeowner, calling 811 keeps you safe from breaking gas, electric, fiber optic or other service lines that may cause widespread damage or bodily harm to you and your neighbors or co-workers. Failure to call could also result in a fine.

Once you call, utility operators will assist you free of charge by marking line locations on your property. The PRC's Pipeline Safety Bureau recommends calling 811 at least two days in advance of digging.

"It's incredibly important that homeowners and business owners take the responsibility to call 811," Espinoza said. "Not only is it a safety measure, it prevents costly service outages that could affect thousands of people in your area."

There are two ways to contact 811 to file a standard line locate request:

- By phone, where 811 operators can take your call from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. For calls after hours, or emergency reporting, call 505-490-2375.
- Online by filling out a basic request form at www.nmonecall.org. Simply click on the "Request a Line Spot" link on the homepage. Requests made online are typically processed the next business day.

New Mexico 811 was established in 1990 to provide professional damage prevention resources for excavators and homeowners statewide. The program also offers free excavation safety seminars.

"Whether you're digging a few inches, or several feet, please call before you dig," Espinoza added.

For more information, visit www.nmonecall.org, or call the NMPRC Pipeline Safety Bureau at 505-476-0298.

Visit the NMPRC online at www.nmprc.state.nm.us.

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