
News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delmarva Power Tells Residents, Businesses and Contractors to Call 811 Before You Dig

*With many people at home due to COVID-19, company emphasizes safe practices to avoid
accidental damage and service disruptions*

NEWARK, Del. (April 3, 2020) – April is National Safe Digging Month, and Delmarva Power is joining Miss Utility of Delmarva – the one-call notification center for Delaware and Maryland – to remind residents, businesses and contractors that safe digging must remain a priority to prevent damage to critical underground energy services and keep communities safe.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and Delaware and Maryland’s Stay at Home Order, many residents are spending more time than ever at home. Anyone planning to use this time at home to take on a spring DIY project that involves digging must call 811 at least a few days before beginning to learn the approximate location of underground utility equipment. Taking the right steps before digging will help avoid accidental damage to underground lines that could disrupt services to surrounding neighbors, but more importantly prevent potential injury from striking an underground electric, natural gas or other utility line.

In 2019 alone, Delmarva Power responded to more than 300 incidents where damage was caused to underground electric or gas lines due to unsafe digging practices. Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground equipment can result in costly repairs when gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines are damaged. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Landscaping, planting trees and shrubs, installing a fence or mailbox, and building a deck, pond or patio, are all examples of digging projects where a call to 811 should be one of the first steps.

Delmarva Power has more than 6,000 miles of underground electric lines in Delaware and Maryland and nearly 3,600 miles of natural gas pipeline buried throughout northern Delaware. Aside from Delmarva Power’s lines, there are underground communications cables, water and sewer lines, and other utilities. Properly locating underground lines is essential to safely completing any digging job.

Residents and businesses should take the following steps if planning a digging project this spring:

- Always call 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.

- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has called 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.
- Visit call811.com for more information.

When calling 811 at least two business days prior to digging, customers and contractors are connected to Miss Utility of Delmarva to provide information about their project to local utility companies. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas.

To promote safety around electric infrastructure in the communities it serves, Delmarva Power also reminds residents and businesses that customer-owned structures are not permitted within Delmarva Power's easements near overhead equipment. Customers must contact their local municipality to obtain the necessary permits prior to any construction near company-owned transmission or distribution lines.

Delmarva Power joins the Exelon family of companies, the other 1,700 Common Ground Alliance members, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and governors across the country in marking April as National Safe Digging Month to bring extra attention to the issue of underground utility line safety and reduce the risk of unnecessary infrastructure damage.

Visit delmarva.com for more information on [safe digging practices](#), or call 800-375-7117.

To learn more about Delmarva Power, visit [The Source](#), Delmarva Power's online news room. Find additional information by visiting delmarva.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/delmarvapower and on Twitter at twitter.com/delmarvaconnect. Delmarva Power's mobile app is available at delmarva.com/mobileapp.

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Delmarva Power is a unit of Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC), the nation's leading energy provider, with approximately 10 million customers. Delmarva Power provides safe and reliable energy service to approximately 532,000 electric customers in Delaware and Maryland and approximately 136,000 natural gas customers in northern Delaware.