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For Immediate Release

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Governor Rick Perry proclaims April as Safe Digging Month in Texas

One free call to 811 before digging prevents 99 percent of damages

Houston, April 1, 2013 – Texas Governor Rick Perry proclaims April as Safe Digging Month and CenterPoint Energy is partnering with his office, the [Common Ground Alliance](#) (CGA), and the One Call Board of Texas to increase awareness of safe digging practices.

CenterPoint Energy reminds homeowners and contractors that they need to call 811 before digging or excavating during the heavy summer excavation months of on-going construction projects. One free call to 811 before digging can prevent injuries, property damage, service disruption and possibly costly fines for damaged infrastructure.

“If you call 811 before digging, 99 percent of the time there will be no damage to underground utilities,” said Joe Berry, manager of Underground Locating for CenterPoint Energy. “It is important that everyone digs with C.A.R.E. Call 811 before your dig. Allow two business days for the utility lines to be marked. Respect the marks, which means hand dig within 18-inches of the marks. Excavate carefully.”

Since the 811 “Call Before You Dig” campaign was created in 2004, there has been roughly a 40 percent reduction in excavation damages. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. So, whether it’s a small project like planting trees or shrubs or hiring a professional for a special outdoor project, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

For more information, visit lonestar811.com.

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