



## **GARDEN PLAIN NATURAL GAS SYSTEM CELEBRATES THE 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH**

*The City of Garden Plain encourages Kansas residents to always call 811 a few days before digging*

This April marks the 10th annual National Safe Digging Month, reminding Kansas residents to always call 811 two working days before any digging project. National Safe Digging Month is formally recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and has traditionally earned the support from nearly every state governor across the country.

Spring is finally here! With the snow melted and the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners like you are gearing up to start those outdoor digging projects. Before you reach for that shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number, to ensure that your buried utility lines are marked.

As April marks the traditional start of digging season, we are using this month to strongly encourage individuals and companies to call 811 before they begin digging. By calling 811 to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners and professionals are making an important decision that can help keep them and their communities safe and connected.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the Kansas One Call Center, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

**The City of Garden Plain encourages area residents go to [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) to get more information about digging safely.**