

MEDIA ADVISORY

Ohio Utilities Protection Service

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State of Ohio to benefit from new organization combining both underground utility protection agencies

North Jackson, OH – Ohio Utilities Protection Service is announcing its merger with the Ohio Gas Producers Underground Protection Service to form OHIO811, the state's true one call headquarters for call before you dig. According to the Ohio Revised Code anyone starting an excavation project MUST contact the Ohio Underground Protection Service Agencies by dialing 8-1-1 at least 48 hours but no more than 10 working days before ANY digging project. This unification officially requires only one call for underground digging protection. Placing the call will now simultaneously notify all local utilities involved in main and service line identification as well as large oil and gas line producers.

There are more than 63,000 active oil and gas wells located in Ohio. A large percentage of those wells produce natural gas and thereby utilize underground pipelines. As such, oil and gas producers in Ohio operate thousands of miles of natural gas pipelines related to their business.

"This merger solidifies the importance of notification and increases ease of access for all people digging in the state of Ohio" said Roger Lipscomb, Executive Director. "Through the efforts of both organizations we can continue to focus on responsible digging and prevention of underground damages that are costly and dangerous."

OHIO811 is a vital resource for Ohio residents and businesses, acting as a communication link between utility companies and facility owners and individuals planning any digging activity. Its mission is to prevent damage to underground facilities and promote public safety by providing an efficient and effective communication and education process. Founded in 1972 as a nonprofit collaboration of several utility companies, OHIO811 continues to be an industry leader in damage prevention.