

**IOWA 811**

**ONE CALL**<sup>SM</sup>

The Official Newsletter of Iowa One Call

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# Excavator

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# WHAT'S UP BELOW

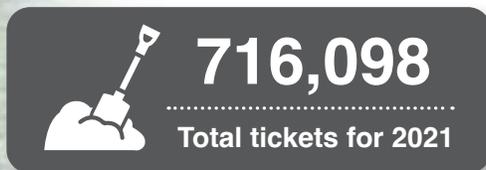


## MARKING PRESERVATION AND REASONABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Iowa law requires excavators to preserve the locate markings at all times throughout an excavation. This is in addition to establishing suitable reference points that will provide the excavator with a reference to where the underground facilities are located at all times throughout an excavation. The notion that underground facility operators are responsible for preserving and maintaining the locate markings is inaccurate. The law is clear about the excavator's role (and responsibility) in preserving and maintaining the markings. Per Iowa Code chapter 480.4(4): "An excavator is responsible for preserving the markings required in subsection 3 at all times during the excavation. If the markings will be destroyed or otherwise altered during the excavation, the excavator must establish suitable reference points which will allow the excavator to locate the underground facilities at all times during the excavation." Failure by excavators to properly preserve their locate markings can significantly impact the workloads of underground facility locators.

The growing demand for underground facility locates means locators must literally compete against the clock as they strive to complete each day's new batch of locate tickets. In 2021, excavators submitted 716,098 notices to Iowa One Call, which generated more than 3.6 million locate ticket

transmissions to Iowa's underground facility operators. It's not unusual during peak season for individual locators to receive anywhere from dozens to even a hundred tickets at a time. When locators have to spend time refreshing locate markings that were not properly preserved or maintained by excavators they lose valuable time, which exacerbates the ongoing problem of locating delays.



An example of particular concern is when contractors routinely "auto-submit" refresh notices on a weekly basis. This occurs when someone within an organization — or even individual contractors — make it their policy to automatically submit refresh notices for all of their current projects each week without ever attempting to maintain and preserve their markings, let alone establish reference points. In most

instances, this occurs due to a lack of understanding. Some contractors/excavators believe that it is the responsibility of the underground facility operators to maintain the locate markings. It was understood back in 1992 during the legislative process to establish and enact Iowa Code chapter 480 that in order to prevent an overburdening of the locating process, excavators would have to maintain and preserve their locate markings.

Barring inclement weather conditions or unforeseen incidents at the jobsite, underground facility markings can be effectively maintained with proper care and caution. The paint used for marking underground facilities is designed to last longer than most state code requirements. The Iowa Code states that the paint markings "shall be done in a manner that will last for a minimum of five working days on any nonpermanent surface, or a minimum of ten working days on any permanent surface." This does not mean that all locate markings need to be refreshed at the end of every five or ten days depending on surface type. When properly maintained, the paint will typically last for even longer periods.

Maintaining the markings means protecting the markings — this includes keeping equipment and foot traffic away, and ensuring construction materials, debris, backfill and other refuse don't tamper with the markings. Underground facility locate markings are an important and valuable tool that excavators must rely on for safety and liability purposes. The maintenance and preservation of locate markings should be a worksite priority for all contractors/excavators.



There will be times when locate markings are unavoidably destroyed due to a variety of reasons, such as the scale and duration of the excavation, the necessary equipment being used and disregard for the markings by different companies or subcontractors working at the same site. This is why it is important – and required by law – that excavators establish suitable reference points based on the original markings so that they can locate the underground facilities, even if the markings have been destroyed.

The use of off-set staking is a useful practice for establishing reference points. Using the markings applied by locators, excavators can establish an area clear of underground facilities and away from where the excavation will occur to set their off-set stakes. The off-set staking must be uniformly aligned and accurately placed in conjunction with the location of the original locate markings, and should be supplemented with descriptive documentation, including scaled and dated photos, videos and/or other descriptive information/references. An excavator's proper documentation of the locate markings, in addition to accurate reference points, is a critical component of the excavation process, which can help excavators mitigate underground facility damages and avoid unnecessary litigation. The use of dated pictures, videos and sketches with distance from the markings to fixed objects/reference points, along with other detailed written documentation, will allow excavators to document the actual placement of the markings. Adequate documentation of the marking before the excavation begins will make it easier to resolve disputes if an underground facility is damaged as a result of improper marking, failure to mark or due to markings having been moved, removed, covered or otherwise destroyed.

Ongoing monitoring of the markings should be performed at regular periods throughout an excavation, including continued documentation with additional dated pictures and videos. At the end of an excavation, an excavator should have adequate documentation of the markings before, during and after the excavation has been completed. This type of documentation can be extremely beneficial for excavators that become involved in disputes or other instances involving damaged underground facilities. Excavators need to take ownership of their jobsite locate markings, which have been applied for the excavator's use. Jobsite markings are the excavator's tools and should be respected and cared for as such.

Taken out of context, the aforementioned requirement that excavators preserve the markings at all times during an excavation may appear as conflicting with a different subsection of Iowa Code chapter 480. Per subsection 480.4(3)(a)(2): "The markings in this subsection shall be done in a manner that will last for a minimum of five (5) working days on any nonpermanent surface, or a minimum of ten (10) working days on any permanent surface. If the excavation will continue for any period longer than such periods, the operator shall remark the location of underground facility upon the request of the excavator. The request shall be made through the notification center." Read in whole, the purpose of the code is to provide a safe and efficient process that allows excavators and operators to perform their responsibilities with minimum interruptions. Excavators are required to preserve the markings and establish suitable reference points, which in turn reduces the need for unnecessary locates and increases overall system efficiency. Operators are required to provide

**“ When following the requirements of the law by diligently protecting and preserving their locate markings, excavators can significantly reduce the need for refresh markings.**

refresh marking as a failsafe when an excavator’s reasonable attempts to preserve the markings are unsuccessful, which heightens safety and damage prevention.

When following the requirements of the law by diligently protecting and preserving their locate markings, excavators can significantly reduce the need for refresh markings.

With fewer unnecessary locate notices to contend with,

locators can give more attention to new notices, and to the refresh notices that are necessary. Proper planning by excavators is an important part of the equation. Locate notices should be submitted only when the proposed excavation is imminent or likely to occur within the twenty-calendar-day life of a notice. If an excavator submits a notice and then the excavation is delayed, the excavator must preserve the locate markings and establish suitable reference points at the site until the excavation can begin or until the notice expires, at which time a new notice must be submitted.

The spirit of the law – Iowa Code chapter 480 – and the purpose of the Iowa One Call system is to advance safety and damage prevention. When properly utilized and adhered to, the system benefits all stakeholders. The collaborative effort by all stakeholders to abide by the rules, regulations and policies of both the code and notification process is necessary for achieving the intended outcome. There is no truer statement than “we are all in this together.”



***Be prepared. Dig safe.***



## **IOWA WILD PARTNERSHIP**

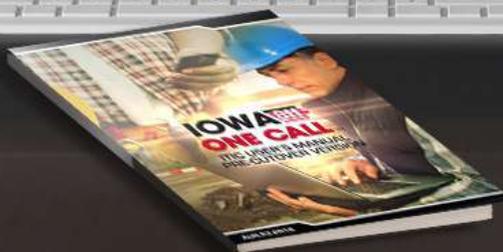
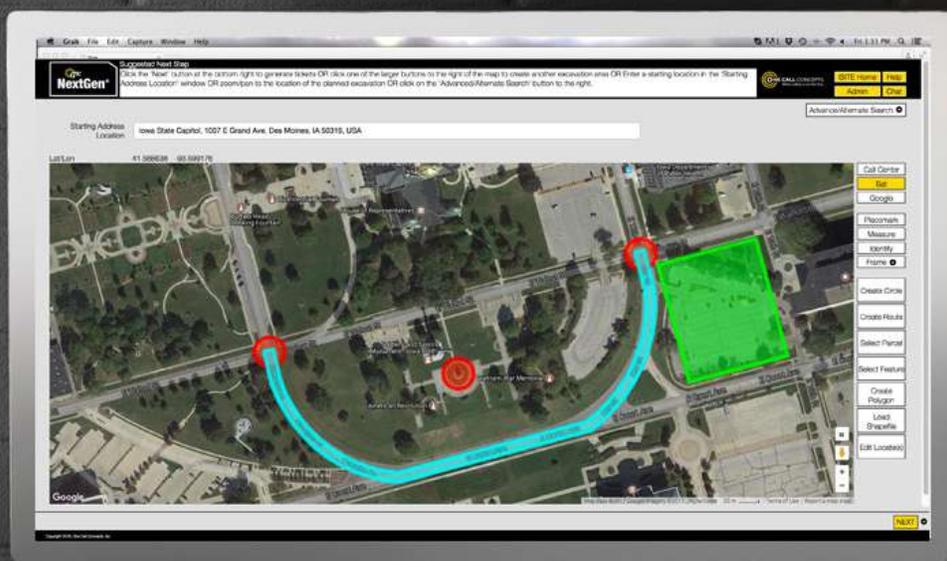
For the first time ever, Iowa One Call will be partnering with the Iowa Wild hockey team in Des Moines this season! The Iowa Wild has their home-opener on Friday, October 14 at the Wells Fargo Arena. Iowa One Call will have a promotional table at select games throughout the season and will be handing out promo items to fans. During the game, you’ll see Iowa One Call advertised heavily on the digital jumbotron and the scrolling screen that circles the entire arena.

One Call is now the official sponsor of the Iowa Wild “ice shovel crew.” The crew will have Iowa One Call logos and branding on their attire and shovels for fans to see each time they go out to clean the ice. This happens several times throughout games and serves as a natural reminder to be cautious when using a shovel.

Come out and support the Iowa Wild this season and stop by the Iowa One Call table — you may even get the chance to meet Gabby the Groundhog!



# TIPS FOR MAPPING PRECISELY AND ACCURATELY



**CHECK OUT THE NEXTGEN ONLINE  
TICKETING TUTORIAL [HERE!](#)**

1. Use the right tool for the job – ITIC NextGen offers a diverse array of mapping options to fit every scenario.
2. Don't over-map – ITIC NextGen builds the locate request from the mapping. Over-mapping a work area can result in wasted time and resources.
3. Double-check your work – use the different map views and/or Google street view to help ensure you've mapped accurately and completely.



# IOWA STATE FAIR 2022



Another Iowa State Fair in the books! Every year, Iowa One Call has a booth in the Varied Industries building at the state fairgrounds. Fairgoers from across the state stop by the booth and pick up a variety of giveaway items, including pens, pencils, magnets, brochures, the infamous yardsticks, fruit-infuser water bottles, tattoos and more. If you stopped by at the right time, Iowa One Call's mascot, Gabby the Groundhog, was at the booth making friends and snapping photos with fairgoers!



The Iowa State Fair is one of the largest and most recognized fairs in the entire country, garnering over 100,000 attendees each day. Iowa One Call greatly values the opportunity to connect with a massive audience and educate Iowans from across the state about the importance of digging safely. See you next year at the Iowa State Fair!





**IOWA ONE CALL - KCCI CONTEST WINNER**



Cassandra from Des Moines recently won the Iowa One Call KCCI contest. She took home a custom-made game room light fixture and a 90-quart Igloo cooler. Congratulations Cassandra!





# “811 DAY”

“811 Day” (August 11) is celebrated nationwide each year to promote safe digging and serve as a reminder to call 811 or click at [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com) before you dig. As part of this year’s 811 Day celebration, Governor Kim Reynolds made an appearance at the Iowa One Call state fair booth to sign a proclamation officially declaring August 11 as “811 Day” in the state of Iowa. Iowa One Call is appreciative that Governor Reynolds took time out her busy schedule to show her commitment to damage prevention and safe digging, alongside Chairman Geri Huser of the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB), Iowa One Call President Tom Sailer, Assistant Attorney General Jake Larson and Common Ground Iowa (CGI) Vice Chairman Jeremy Feldmann.

Contacting 811 before digging is the easiest way to avoid costly – and potentially deadly – damages to buried utilities. For every project, every time, click or call 811 48 hours in advance to have underground utilities marked. Stay safe!





# IOWA CUBS OUTING 2022

Batter up! Iowa One Call hosted another I-Cubs (AAA) baseball outing at Principal Park this year, and it made for a great evening at the ballpark. Iowa One Call served as the primary sponsor of the Friday, August 12 game, which included many advertising opportunities to “takeover” the

ballpark. The Iowa One Call table was front and center at the main gate entrance to Principal Park. As the gates opened and fans flooded in, the overwhelming majority of them made a stop at the table to grab t-shirts, stress ball baseballs, pens, pencils and other promo items. It’s safe to say the inventory was very much depleted by the time the game even started. Getting promotional items into the hands of Iowa homeowners is ideal, especially the hundreds of Iowa One Call t-shirts that were given away that serve as literal walking reminders to click or call 811 for the public eye.

In addition to the promotional table, Iowa One Call had its mascot, Gabby the Groundhog, in attendance. Lucky for Gabby, there were 10 other mascots at the game to celebrate Cubby’s birthday! In addition to hanging out on the field with other mascots and throwing out the first



**Ben Booth, Iowa One Call’s PR & Communications Manager, with Alex Cohen, the voice of the I-Cubs**

pitch, Gabby the Groundhog took photos with kids and families throughout the game and helped spread awareness about safe digging.

A live in-game radio interview was conducted between Iowa One Call's PR & Communications Manager Ben Booth and the voice of the I-Cubs, Alex Cohen. The duo talked about why it's important to contact Iowa One Call before digging, what types of digging projects may constitute a notice before digging, such as planting a tree or bush, building a patio or installing a fence. The two had some good laughs that they shared with fans who listened to the in-game broadcast.

Another exciting part of this game was that the 811 Bike and Trike were displayed right outside the main gate entrance — allowing fans to stop by and check out the vehicles. Some also snapped some great pictures!

The Iowa One Call board members were treated to a skybox to enjoy the game, which turned out to be an exciting one, packed with homeruns and even a grand slam! To top off the great evening, there was a terrific fireworks display that lit up the sky above the park. Overall, the I-Cubs outings are always a great way to promote Iowa One Call to homeowners and stay engaged with the community.



# INTRODUCING THE Safe Excavator App



State laws pertaining to excavation (or digging) vary – and finding the specific information you're looking for quickly can be a challenge.

The **Safe Excavator App** makes it easy to find state-specific excavation information including the following requirements or events:

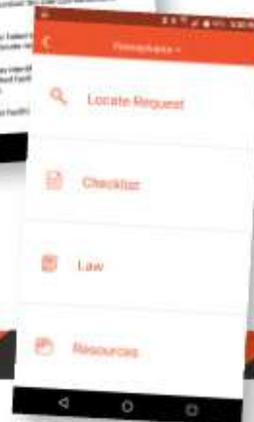
- ▼ Advance notice or wait time
- ▼ Pre-marking ('whitelining')
- ▼ 811 ticket information
- ▼ Names of local enforcement agencies and 811 call centers, also connecting you electronically to submit a locate request
- ▼ Includes safe digging tips + checklist

PLEASE CONTACT  
**Lindsay Sander**  
713.208.0273  
LNS@SanderResources.com  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

  
**National  
Excavator  
Initiative**  
*Safety always.*

FREE to download in the App store (Apple) and Google Play (Android)

Search "safe excavator" or "safeexcavator" and look for the orange shovel



As simple as...  
**1...2...3!**

- 1 Select a state
- 2 Pick an activity
- 3 Research your topic

[www.safeexcavator.com](http://www.safeexcavator.com)



Know what's below.  
**811 before you dig.**

The National Excavator Initiative is an effort to raise the awareness of a critically important program: 811.

Contacting 811 before digging is the single most critical action an excavator can take to help ensure their health and safety are protected, while at the same time preventing financial harm and environmental impact.



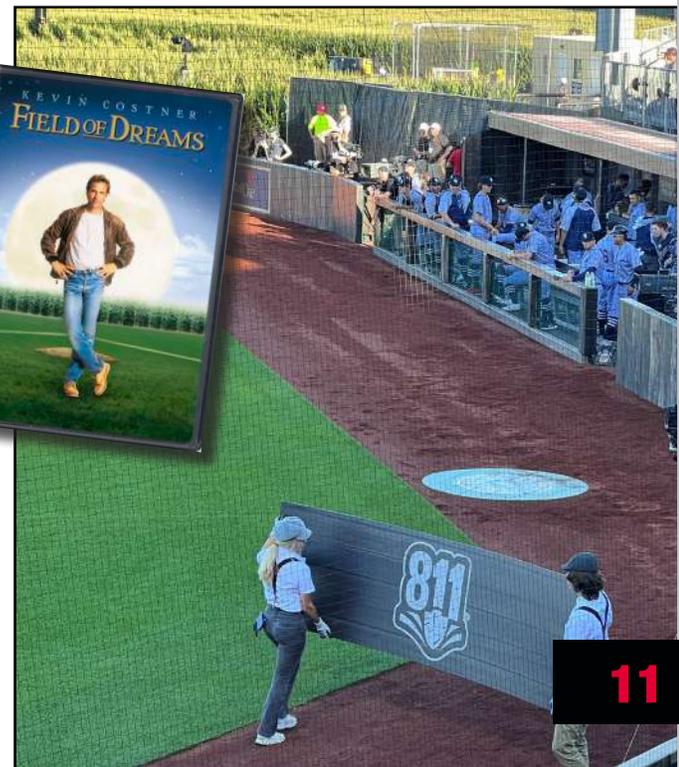
# FIELD OF DREAMS GAME

In partnership with Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and other state one call centers and utility companies, Iowa One Call was thrilled to be a sponsor of the iconic Field of Dreams baseball game. For those that may be unaware, the Field of Dreams is a baseball field and tourist attraction built in Dyersville, Iowa, for the 1989 movie “Field of Dreams.” In 2021, Major League Baseball (MLB) hosted its first ever regular season game at the Field of Dreams field, and the game drew the largest regular-season baseball audience on any network since 2005, according to Sports Media Watch.



This year, a conglomerate sponsorship effort of utility companies, CGA and state one call centers — including Iowa One Call — gave us the opportunity to advertise the “811” logo to a national audience at the Field of Dreams Minor League Baseball (MiLB) game on August 9, 2022. The “811” imagery was featured throughout the Field of Dreams ballpark, including prominent locations on the third baseline and behind Homeplate — the most visible spot in a ballpark for television viewers. The game featured two of Iowa’s very own Minor League Baseball teams — the Cedar Rapids Kernels versus the Quad City River Bandits.

The sponsorship included digital graphics that were promoted on the Iowa One Call social media channels and a “digital takeover” on August 11 (known as “811 Day”) that displayed the “811” digital ads on each MiLB team’s website.



## 811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

FIND OUT MORE

FINAL • WED, AUG 10  
Corpus Christi  
48-56  
Wichita  
56-47  
Riverfront Stadium

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	10	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2

W • CC  
Ruppenthal  
5-1, 3.85 ERA

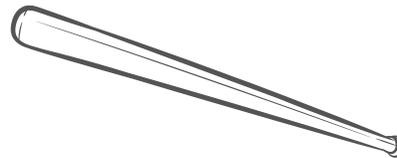
L • WCH  
German  
2-3, 3.82 ERA

Box  
MLBTV

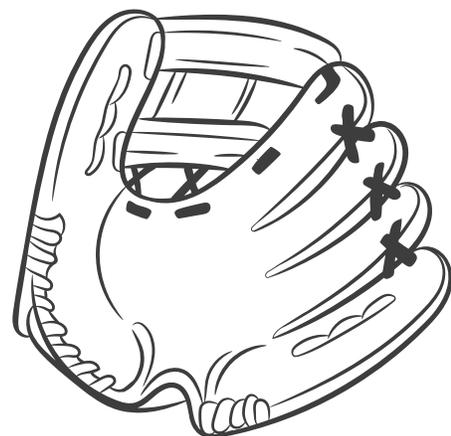
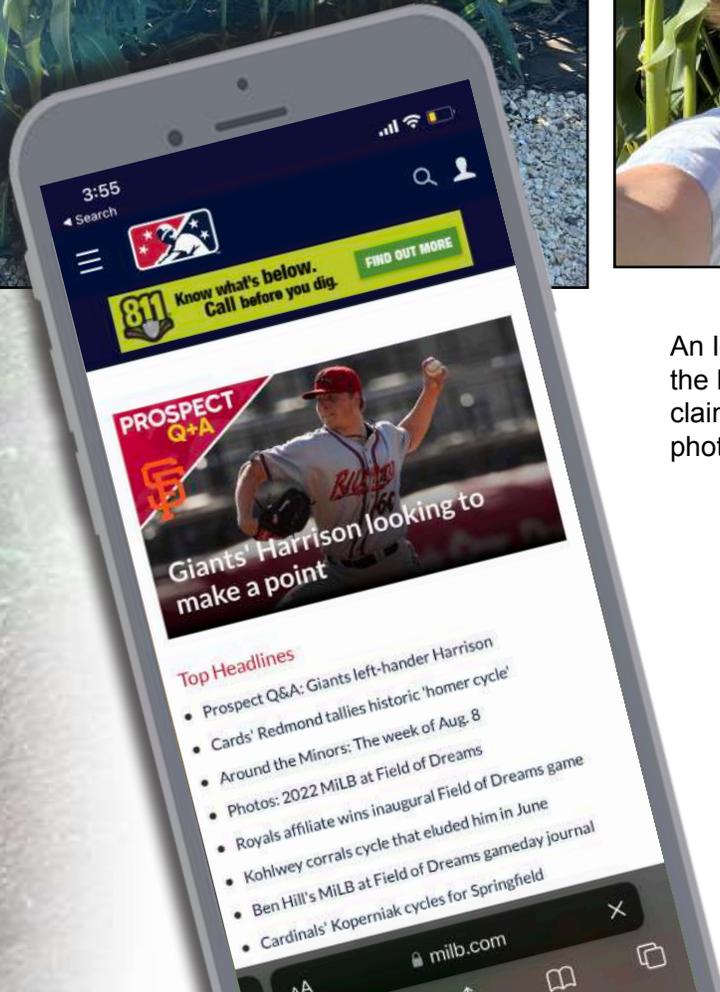
TUE, AUG 16 • 6:35 PM CDT  
vs  
Frisco  
Tickets  
Mike Shaw Automot...



Iowa One Call was thrilled to be a part of the iconic Field of Dreams game and have the opportunity to bring awareness to the importance of calling “811” to a national audience. Between the August 11 MiLB media takeover and national television audience, the estimated impressions were predicted to be around a minimum of 3.8 million people. It was also great to support an event in our own backyard — the great state of Iowa.



An Iowa One Call board member, Brian Mueller, attended the MiLB Field of Dreams game with his family and claimed it was a perfect evening. He also snapped some photos of the “811” displays throughout the game.





# FALL DIGGING PROJECTS

Autumn is a great time to tackle home improvement and landscaping projects. In fact, fall is considered the best time to do landscaping because your plants will have time to prepare for a productive growing season in the spring while the plants get comfortable and develop their roots in the fall, according to [hightechlandscapes.com](http://hightechlandscapes.com).

Whether you are looking at planting a tree, bush, shrub or simply putting in landscaping edging — a notice to Iowa One Call is required by law before disturbing the earth. Iowa Code chapter 480 (the “Iowa One Call law”) states that a notice must be given at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. So, if you plan to begin digging on the weekend, you’ll want to have a ticket filed no later than Wednesday to account for the required 48-hour notice. To be considerate of possible locating delays, adding an extra day or two of leeway time can help ensure that locate markings are in place before digging. There are two ways to file a ticket in Iowa: you can go online to [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com) and file a ticket via the online ticketing system or call 811 to be connected to a live customer service representative. Whichever method you decide on, it’s an entirely free system to use.

Here are some general tips that may be helpful when filing a dig ticket before you tackle those projects:

- Filing a ticket online at [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com) is considered to be the most efficient and simple way to convey precisely where your excavation is going to occur on your property. This will help the utility operator/locator understand exactly where the digging is going to occur and determine which (if any) underground utilities are present.
- If you decide you’d like to call 811 to file your ticket, wait until the automated message is over to be connected to a live customer service representative.
- When filing a ticket, try to be as precise and descriptive as possible. For example, you could state that you are “planting a tree on the southwest side of backyard.” This simple description can help the utility operators/locators determine that there are in fact no existing underground utilities in this area, meaning you can begin digging before the required 48-hour timeframe, opposed to having to wait for the utility operators/locators mark your entire property.

## DIG SAFELY!



# IN THE NEWS



*Local Excavation and Safety News From Around the Web*



## 10 Reasons Why Fall Is the Perfect Time for Planting Your Garden

[www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com)

Fall garden chores often involve getting your garden ready for winter and raking up fallen leaves. But you'll miss a perfect planting opportunity if you're only focused on leaf-removal. Cool temperatures, along with several other benefits, make autumn an ideal time to add new plants to your landscape, divide overgrown perennials, and in some regions, plant a veggie garden for fall and winter harvest. Plus, all those fallen leaves make excellent mulch for all your newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs... [\[Learn More\]](#)



# IOWA 811

# ONE CALL



[www.IOWAONECALL.com](http://www.IOWAONECALL.com)

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