

IOWA 811

ONE CALLSM

The Official Newsletter of Iowa One Call

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Excavator

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DIGGING DEEPER

REMINDER: NEW AMENDMENTS TO IOWA'S "ONE CALL" LAW

Effective July 1, 2024, Iowa introduced significant updates to its "One Call" law to improve safety and compliance throughout the excavation process. These amendments address longstanding pain points by tightening regulations and establishing more detailed guidelines for both excavators and underground facility locators. The primary objectives for these changes are to reduce communication gaps, avoid delays, and prevent damage to underground facilities.

KEY UPDATES:

New Definition for "Forty-Eight-Hour Period"

New Subsection. (480.1 Definitions): "Forty-eight-hour period" means a period of forty-eight consecutive hours beginning at 6:00 a.m. the next business day from the day the notification center receives a notice and excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

The "Forty-Eight-Hour Period" is a critical time frame in which locators must respond after receiving notice of excavation. The purpose for extending the forty-eight-hour period is to mitigate extreme locating schedules due to ongoing demand for new locates. Changing dynamics within the industry have led many states to pass new legislation extending the minimum time period for completing locates. This amendment aims to ensure all parties can move forward in the excavation and locating processes without unnecessary hold-ups.

The Center Shall Implement a New Communications Process

New Subsection. 480.3(2)(b): "The center shall establish a communications system to facilitate the provision of notice by operators, locators, and excavators."

Previously, communication relied heavily on one-way notifications, leading to potential misunderstandings and delays. This new two-way communication system encourages real-time communication, allowing for quicker clarification during the locating process. A two-way communication system promotes safety and efficiency by enabling stakeholders to stay aligned and make immediate adjustments as needed.



A Notice Is Valid for Twenty-Five Calendar Days

Amended Subsection. 480.4(1)(a): "The notice shall be valid for twenty-five calendar days beginning on the day the forty-eight-hour period concludes."

The "life of a ticket" has seen an increase from 20 calendar days from the point of notice to 25 calendar days from the day the Forty-Eight-Hour Period concludes. This extension gives excavators more time to complete their work without needing to reapply for new locates, which has historically delayed projects. This update helps reduce redundancy in remarking areas, streamlining workflow while maintaining safety.

For a full and detailed overview of these updates and more, please visit the [law update information page on the Iowa One Call website](#).

**Dig safe!**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Curt Smith
McAninch Corp

Curt Smith started with McAninch Corp. in the spring of 1994 as a lowboy driver before being promoted to transportation manager. He then moved into the Safety Department as field safety manager and is now in charge of purchasing and locates for the field. Growing up northwest of Indianola, Curt worked on his neighbor's farm and helped with his father's OTR trucking business. After graduating from Indianola High School, Curt started out working at a factory job and over the years has received and led multiple on-the-job trainings, along with obtaining several safety certificates.

"My wife and I enjoy spending time with our collective of four grown children and five grandchildren. My youngest son currently works at McAninch as a loader operator on a utility crew. In the past, I built and raced several stock cars and mud trucks. Mostly, now, I enjoy working out, riding my motorcycle, working in my fab shop, and around my small hobby farm."



Kane Murphy
USIC

Kane Murphy started with USIC (then Great Plains Locating Service) in the spring of 2000 as an underground utility locating technician in the Des Moines area, where he performed field locates for 15 years. In 2015, he was promoted to safety and training leader in 2015 and began traveling around the country to train utility locating skills to new technicians. Then, in 2017, he moved into operations management and is now USIC's area manager for the state of Iowa. Kane was born and raised in the Des Moines area and attended Lincoln High School.

"My wife and I have been married for 20 years and share many hobbies, including a love of music, cool cars, and traveling. Outside of work, you will frequently find one or both of us taking a trip or attending concerts and car shows. These days, I also enjoy the peace and quiet of time at home, whether it is spending time working on one of our cars in the garage, reading books and watching movies, or watching football in the fall. Go Pack Go!"

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
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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



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.



IOWA STATE FAIR RECAP

RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

The Iowa State Fair, a cherished annual tradition for the state of Iowa, achieved remarkable success this year with record-breaking attendance. According to the fair's official statistics, the 2024 Iowa State Fair attracted an impressive 1,182,682 visitors, surpassing the 2023 attendance by over 48,000 and breaking the previous attendance record of 1,170,375 set in 2019. This surge in attendance created an incredible opportunity for Iowa One Call to reach a wider audience and reinforce the message of safety and responsibility when it comes to digging and excavation projects.

GABBY, THE IOWA ONE CALL MASCOT, DELIGHTS FAIRGOERS

One of the many highlights of the fair for Iowa One Call was the appearance of our beloved mascot, Gabby the Groundhog. As a central figure in Iowa One Call's efforts to reach Iowa's youth audience, Gabby's lively and engaging presence captured the attention of young fairgoers and their families. Gabby once again played a vital role in spreading the important message of safe digging practices and damage prevention by making safety fun and interactive for all.

IOWA ONE CALL PARTNERS WITH KCCI

Iowa One Call and KCCI resumed their successful collaboration at the Iowa State Fair, partnering at the MidAmerican Energy Stage to extend their reach and impact. This year's partnership featured live Facebook feeds, giving viewers a behind-the-scenes look at some of the newest and most anticipated fair foods. In addition, the collaborative segment hosted at the MidAmerican Energy Stage featured interactive daily giveaways where fairgoers had the chance to win luxury soft coolers and streaming devices, among other giveaway items. This valued partnership has proven itself year after year as a unique opportunity to raise public awareness among thousands of Iowans.



IOWA ATTORNEY GENERAL



GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS PROCLAIMS AUGUST 11TH AS OFFICIAL '811 DAY'

A significant moment for damage prevention stakeholders occurred during the Iowa State Fair when Governor Kim Reynolds officially proclaimed August 11 as "811 Day" in Iowa. This proclamation recognizes the critical role Iowa One Call plays in preventing damage to underground infrastructure and promoting excavation safety. 811 Day serves as an annual reminder to contact Iowa One Call before starting any excavation projects. This recognition further emphasizes the commitment of Iowa's leadership to ensuring public safety and protecting vital utilities.

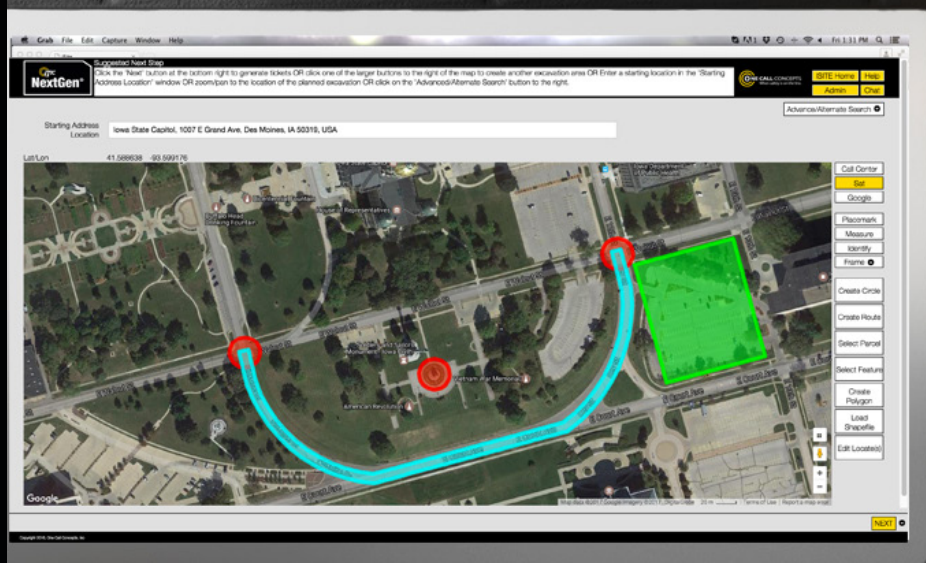
THANK YOU TO IOWA STATE FAIRGOERS!

Iowa One Call extends a huge thank you to all the fairgoers who stopped by to engage with us, participate in our events, and support our efforts in promoting dig safety here across the state. Your enthusiasm and support make our mission possible. Together, we can continue to safeguard our communities by always remembering to contact Iowa One Call before digging. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Photo Courtesy of Iowa State Fair

TIPS FOR MAPPING PRECISELY AND ACCURATELY



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

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.

IN THE NEWS



Local Excavation and Safety News From Around the Web



Iowa Attorney General Emphasizes “Call Before You Dig” After Lawsuits Filed

Three major companies – MidAmerican Energy, Mediacom, CenturyLink – have each agreed to pay \$50,000 in civil penalties for violating Iowa’s One Call law. This law mandates that excavators provide proper notice before digging in order to protect underground utilities and prevent potential injuries. Underground facility operators are required to mark their infrastructure accurately and in a timely manner, as inaccurate or delayed markings can lead to accidents, project delays, and increased costs.

In May of 2021, the State of Iowa issued warning letters to all three companies about their failure to meet these standards. Despite the warnings, complaints continued and led to a state investigation. Through the investigation, all three companies cooperated and made significant improvements to their locate processes.

In the end, Attorney General Brenna Bird emphasized the importance of Iowa’s One Call law in preventing dangerous accidents and praised the companies’ efforts to enhance safety measures and compliance. This resolve is seen as a major step forward in protecting underground infrastructure and more importantly, keeping Iowans safe.

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ONE CALL



www.IOWAONECALL.com

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