



April 2021

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

In observance of National Safe Digging Month in April, JULIE recently announced results from a national survey conducted by the Common Ground Alliance. The results revealed that a third (33%) of U.S. homeowners reported experiencing a utility service interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, nearly **40 percent of homeowners** who plan to dig this year for projects like planting a tree or shrub, installing a fence or mailbox, or building a deck, pond or patio and other DIY projects, **will put themselves, their families and their communities at risk by not submitting a locate request** at least two business days beforehand. Examples of projects that require notification to JULIE first.

“There is no question that access to essential utility services is important to communities. Given the current environment, disruptions to internet and phone services are particularly problematic, especially with so many people relying on these services more than ever to complete work, school and so much more,” said Kevin Chmura, Director of Public Relations at JULIE. “Homeowners in Illinois are using their extra time at home to complete projects that require digging. Every project, no matter how large or small, requires a notification to JULIE. Doing so will keep communities safe and connected to critical utility services we all rely on every day.”

If you are planning to visit your local garden or home improvement center this weekend (or any weekend), notify JULIE no later than Wednesday at 4p. [Click here to conveniently enter your own online locate request today.](#) This is a free call and service.

Enter An Online Request



PLANT A TREE

JULIE recognizes that many people will be planting trees this season, so it is important to remember to submit a notification at least two business days ahead of time. The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surface. [Click here to learn about the 6 common](#)

mistakes when planting a tree.

PLANNING A PROJECT

Planting, building, adding or fixing anything outdoors? Know what's below. JULIE encourages homeowners to take the following steps when planning a digging project.



- **Plan ahead.** Always notify JULIE at least two business days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property. Even if you think you know where the underground lines are located, you must notify JULIE for each project, every time.
- **If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor notified JULIE.** Do not allow work to begin if the underground utility lines are not marked. A contractor should never tell you there is no need to contact JULIE for a digging project. There is no excuse. Do you have a question about the process? Contact one of JULIE's Damage Prevention Managers.
- **Confirm that all lines have been marked** and consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings. Learn more about digging near the tolerance zone.

Go to our website (www.JULIEbeforeyoudig.com) for frequently asked questions and more safety tips.

CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

Digging accidents are the leading source of damage to underground utilities. Sadly, most of these incidents could have been prevented with a notification to JULIE. JULIE's E-Request self-service program is a fast and convenient choice that is available 24/7. Our call center agents can be reached anytime by dialing 8-1-1. Check out the 4 most common myths for not contacting JULIE.

WHAT DO THOSE DIFFERENT FLAGS MEAN?

Have you noticed more small flags in your neighborhood? That's another sign of spring. After you have notified JULIE, each utility member is responsible to locate and mark their own underground lines with paint or flags within two working days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). See what those different little flags mean in your yard.



JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services. As an important personal and home safety reminder, locators from member companies rarely need access into your home to complete a locate request and should always have proper identification clearly visible.

Members are only required to mark the lines that they own, not privately installed or owned lines such as electric and gas lines to a garage or workshop, sprinkler systems and ornamental lighting. [Learn more about what happens after contacting JULIE.](#)



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