



For Immediate Release:

Unauthorized digging can put lives and vital energy connections at risk

Alliance Pipeline urges public to call 811 before digging

Eden Prairie, MN. – *April 2, 2012* – This spring, when planning any excavation activities, whether building a deck or planting a tree, Alliance Pipeline reminds the public to call before digging. All it takes to prevent damage to underground facilities and keep everyone safe is a quick call to the state one-call center to have all underground utilities and pipelines located and marked.

Throughout the month of April, Alliance Pipeline is promoting safe digging practices and the importance of calling 8-1-1 or the state one-call center at least two business days before digging.

“Natural gas energy is used in homes every day. Unauthorized digging can result in interruption or disconnection from that energy and can become a danger for those living and working in the area,” said Tony Straquadine, an Alliance Pipeline spokesperson.

Failure to call before digging is the number one cause of damage to pipelines and other buried utilities. It can result in injury, legal hassles, and disruption of utilities – like power, water, and telephone – and damage to a pipeline, even a small nick, if left unrepaired can become a danger to lives in the future.

“Pipelines are the safest way to transport the vital energy that we all rely on, but ensuring the safety of the families that live and work around those pipelines must be a joint-effort between operators, landowners and excavators alike,” Straquadine said. “As spring approaches, people are eager to start their outdoor projects, so it is timely to remind them to call their state one-call center or 8-1-1 before starting any sort of digging or excavation.”

Calling 8-1-1 initiates a process to have underground facility lines located and marked. Operators ask for the location of the digging job and pass the information to utility and pipeline companies with facilities in that area. The companies then send someone within two business days to locate and mark their facilities so that work can be done safely around the buried infrastructure.

For more information about working safely around pipelines, visit www.alliancepipeline.com/digsafe, www.call811.com or call Alliance Pipeline at 1-877-733-3183.

Alliance Pipeline transports natural gas through a 2,311-mile pipeline system that collects gas in northeastern British Columbia and northwestern Alberta, running underground through Saskatchewan, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and terminating in Illinois, the heart of the U.S. Midwest. Alliance delivers more than 1.6 billion cubic feet per day of high-energy natural gas to the Chicago market, enough to meet the daily needs of seven million homes.

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