

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTH CAROLINA 811 CELEBRATES THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAFE DIGGING MONTH BY GIVING AWAY 100 TREES

South Carolina 811 encourages SC residents to dig safely when planting trees for Earth Day and Arbor Day

COLUMBIA, SC (March 27, 2017) – This April South Carolina 811 is giving away 100 trees at four garden centers around the state to remind homeowners to dig safely when planting around Earth Day and Arbor Day.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to South Carolina 811, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

South Carolina 811 will be giving away the trees on Monday, April 3rd at Woodley's Garden Center in Northeast Columbia; Monday, April 10th at Wilson's Nursery and Garden Center in Rock Hill; Monday, April 17th at Angel Oak Nursery in Charleston; and Monday, April 24th at Martin Garden Center in Greenville. The first 25 people who request for their lines to be located at the South Carolina 811 table at 3pm on the day of the promotion will receive a free tree up to a \$50 value.

"April is not only National Safe Digging Month, but also the home of Arbor Day and Earth Day. We are giving away trees promote a healthy environment and to strongly encourage individuals to call 811 before they begin digging to plant trees for those holidays," said Misty Wise, Executive Director of South Carolina 811. "By calling 811 to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners are making an important decision that can help keep them and their communities safe and connected."

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

South Carolina 811 encourages area residents to visit www.sc811.com/safe-dig-month for more information about the tree program or www.sc811.com for more information about digging safely in South Carolina.

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