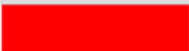









August 11th, is 811 Day, an annual reminder for customers to call 811 before starting any outdoor digging project. Atlantic City Electric is joining New Jersey One Call, the one-call notification center for New Jersey, to remind residents, businesses and contractors that safe digging must remain a priority to prevent damage to critical underground energy services and most importantly, to prevent injuries or even worse.

Atlantic City Electric has 3,007 miles of underground electric lines. Besides Atlantic City Electric equipment, there are numerous water and sewer lines, communication cables and other utility equipment. When calling 811, customers and contractors are connected to New Jersey One Call that will take the caller's information and communicate it to local utility companies.

Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas. Here is a breakdown of what each color indicates:

	Color	Utility Type
	Red	Electric, Cables, Conduit, Lighting Cables
	Yellow	Natural Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
	Orange	Communication, Phone, Cable, Fiber Optic
	Blue	Water
	Green	Sewer
	Purple	Reclaimed Water
	White	Proposed Excavation
	Pink	Temporary Survey Marking

To avoid injury and disruptions, residents and businesses should remember these six tips before starting any project:

- Call 811 at least three days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Have a plan. Call on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has called 811. Do not allow work to begin if the lines are not marked.
- Visit call811.com for more information.

With recent severe weather bringing down numerous trees across our service area, it is important for customers to be aware of their surroundings, including what's underground, before starting cleanup. While the aftermath of severe weather is stressful, a call to 811 can help make sure cleanup goes safely and prevents further damage. 811 offers the following tips during storm cleanup:

- When piling up storm debris, do not place items in front of, around, or on top of known areas of buried and above ground utilities. Avoid any above-ground structures such as meters and pedestals that provide gas, power, communication or water capabilities.

- When storm debris collection begins, it is important for all utilities, both underground and overhead, to be identified in order to prevent personal injury.
- If digging is required for installation of temporary poles for electrical needs or if any other digging occurs, remember to always contact 811 beforehand to prevent serious injury when digging near underground utility lines.
- During storm restoration efforts, local utilities are facing stretched resources, which may impact the response time to locate their underground infrastructure. It is strongly encouraged that all nonessential excavation and demolition projects be postponed in areas impacted by the storm.
- If you suspect damage of any kind to underground lines, contact your local utility. If there is damage to a gas line or dangerous/hazardous lines, call 911. A gas leak could be occurring if you smell the distinctive natural gas odor, hear a hissing or whistling sound near a gas line, or see dead vegetation or bubbles near a gas line. If this occurs, vacate the area immediately and call 911.

To learn more about safe digging practices visit atlanticcityelectric.com/Safety or call 800-642-3780.