

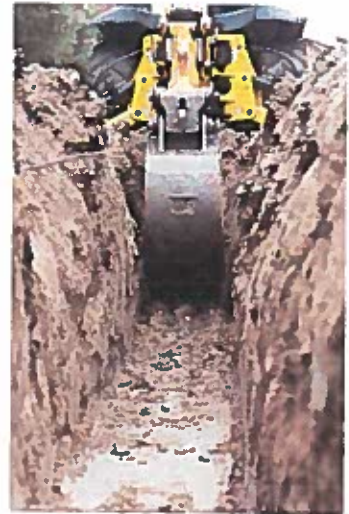
August 11 (8/11) is a timely reminder that before starting any digging project – no matter how small – you should contact **Sunshine 811**. Striking underground utility lines can cause costly damage, service outages, and even life-threatening injuries.

**Florida is one of the fastest-growing states** and a leader in construction activity, which means we face a higher risk of underground utility strikes. Last year alone, Florida experienced more than **27,000 reported damages** – and 76% occurred without an 811 ticket.

**Whether you're a homeowner planting a tree or a contractor installing a fence, contacting 811 before you dig is free, easy, and required by law.**

#### Follow These 6 Steps for Safe Digging:

1. **Plan your project** – Gather your address, project details, and timeline.
2. **Contact 811** – Call or go online at least two business days before you dig.
3. **Wait for lines to be marked** – Utilities have 48 hours to respond.
4. **Verify positive responses** – Check your ticket to confirm all utilities have marked or cleared your site.
5. **Confirm the marks** – Match flags and paint colors to your ticket records.
6. **Dig with care** – Stay 24 inches away from marked lines and watch for entangled roots.



#### Did You Know?

Trenching and excavation hazards are among **OSHA's most frequently cited violations** — and cave-ins can cause serious, life-threatening injuries. If your crews perform excavation work, OSHA requires a Competent Person on site to recognize hazards, implement protective systems, and ensure job site safety.



**Our Trenching & Excavation for the Competent Person training will help you:**

- Meet OSHA's trenching and excavation safety requirements
- Identify and prevent hazards before they cause harm
- Protect workers from cave-ins, falls, falling loads, and hazardous atmospheres
- Understand soil classification and protective systems
- Develop compliant excavation and trenching safety plans

Available as private, on-site, customized training for your team.

**[Schedule Your Trenching & Excavation Training Today »](#)**

Don't wait until a preventable incident disrupts your project. Equip your team with the knowledge and skills to dig safely — every time.

Stay safe,

The Florida Chamber Safety Council Team



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