#### HURRICANE IRMA CLEAN UP CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

**Don’t Make the Problem Worse after the Storm – Call 811**

Contributed by: [Insert full name, Title of stakeholder executive]

If Hurricane Irma caused damage to your property, one important phone number can help you avoid another major problem during the clean-up process. If you plan to dig or uproot trees as part of your storm clean up, please be sure to call 811 at least [notification period] beforehand.

Every nine minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single utility line during storm clean up can lead to personal injury, penalties, repair costs, and expensive and inconvenient outages.

When you call 811, you will speak with a representative who will take the location and description of the project site and notify affected utility companies. Utility companies will then each send a professional locator to mark the approximate location of utility lines. Once lines have been marked, you can begin to carefully clean up around marked lines.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and calling 811 helps protect you, your family and neighbors from utility line damages, and helps keep your community safe and connected.

For additional information regarding safe digging practices, please call 811 or visit [www.call811.com](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\kcahill\Local%20Settings\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\Local%20Settings\Users\Khrysanne\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\AWhite\Desktop\www.call811.com).