#### STORM CLEAN UP PRESS RELEASE

#### Media Contact:

NAME

Phone Number

Email Address

[STAKEHOLDER NAME] ADVISES RESIDENTS to CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING AS CLEAN UP FROM [NAME OF STORM] BEGINS

*A free phone call a few days before digging helps identify approximate location of underground utility lines*

**CITY, STATE (MONTH, X, YEAR)** – In light of the recent devastation caused by [NAME OF STORM], the [NAME OF TOWN] community will be coming together to clean up and rebuild in the coming weeks.

During this time, one important phone number can help residents from adding to complications during the clean up process. For any clean up that involves digging or removing trees from the ground, [STAKEHOLDER] reminds professional excavators and homeowners alike to call 811 a few full business days before they start to dig.

The best way to avoid damaging your utilities and risking injury or loss of service is to call 811 a few days before digging to learn the approximate location of buried lines in your area. Striking a single utility line during hurricane clean up or any other time can lead to personal injury, penalties, repair costs, and expensive and inconvenient outages.

When residents call 811, they will speak with a [ONE CALL CENTER] representative who will take the location and description of the project site and notify affected utility operators. These utilities will then send professional locators to mark the approximate locations of their lines. Once these lines have been marked, residents can begin to carefully clean up around the marked lines. This number is not to be used to report utility service outages.

“In the aftermath of devastation, we must remember that safety is a shared responsibility, and calling 811 helps protect the people who dig and entire communities,” said [NAME OF SPOKESPERSON]. “It’s one easy phone call that will help make sure a difficult situation isn’t made worse.”

As residents and business owners clean up from [NAME OF STORM], they should keep the following important safety reminders top-of-mind:

* When placing storm debris around servitudes, rights-of-ways, home or business areas, do not place items in front of, around, or on top of known areas of buried and above ground utilities. Specifically, any above ground structures such as meters and pedestals that provide gas, power, communication or water capabilities.
* As 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 call 811 beforehand to prevent serious injury when digging near underground utility lines.
* Because of storm restoration efforts, some local utility members 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.
* Remember that underground utility line depth varies, and there may be multiple utility lines in one common area. The risk of striking an underground utility line exists even when digging only a few inches, so always call 811 before you dig.

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

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#### 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 the recent [type of storm] storm in the [location] area 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 as part of your storm clean up, please be sure to call 811 at least [notification period] beforehand.

The best way to avoid damaging your utilities and risking injury or loss of service is to call 811 a few days before digging to learn the approximate location of buried lines in your area. 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 [Local one call center] 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).