#### INCIDENT RESPONSE NEWS RELEASE (UNAFFECTED PARTY)

#### [Insert Company Logo]

**Media Contact:**

[NAME]

[PHONE NUMBER]

[EMAIL ADDRESS]

[STAKEHOLDER] reminds local residents to call 811 Before all digging projects

*Incident in [location] serves as reminder of vast web of buried utilities that lie beneath the surface*

**[CITY, STATE ABBREVIATION]** (Month XX, 2020) — In light of the recent [description of incident] incident in [City, State], [Insert stakeholder] would like to remind [state] residents that it is important to call 811 at least [Insert state notification period] before digging to have underground utility lines marked. One free call to 811 can help prevent an unfortunate incident like the one in [City, State].

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Residents are responsible for having lines marked before they dig, whether it’s for a large project, such as building a deck, or a small one, such as planting a tree.

Callers to 811 are connected to [Local one-call center], which notifies the appropriate utility companies of the caller’s intent to dig. Professional locators are sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint. Once lines have been properly marked, digging can begin around the marked lines.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surface. 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.

“In light of the recent incident in [location], [Insert stakeholder] would like to remind residents that one simple call to 811 will help homeowners, contractors and do-it-yourself diggers avoid striking an underground utility line,” said XXX, XXX [Insert stakeholder representative’s name and title here]. “It’s the simplest step residents can take to protect themselves and their communities.”

Visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) for more state information about 811 and the call-before-you-dig process.

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