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SMART DIGGING IS NO ACCIDENT

Northglenn/Broomfield, CO— Spring is officially here according to the calendar and soon comfortable weather will follow. Before long, many Colorado homeowners will be off to the nursery for a landscaping project or possibly the hardware store for a project requiring more extensive digging, trenching or boring in the yard.

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. Electric power lines, natural gas pipelines, communications lines, and other utility services could be within a few feet of the surface. For homeowners, excavating in your yard poses some risk. Digging into an underground electric line can cause power outages and personal injury from shock or electrocution.

Some of the projects that homeowners should call before they begin, include:

- Planting trees
- Creating a pond or fountain
- Setting a mailbox
- Pouring concrete
- Planting hedges
- Installing a fence
- Building a deck

Homeowners need to consider their personal safety and their neighbor's. A damaged gas pipeline or service to a house can create an explosion hazard that potentially

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endangers both persons and property. These underground facilities are not always located out in the street. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Having your utilities marked is an easy process—it just takes a few days notice before your projects desired start date. One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. Call Center operators will ask you for the location of your digging job and route your call to affected utility companies. Your utility companies will then send a professional locator to your location to mark your lines within 72 hours. Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely, because knowing what's below protects you and your family.

Calling (811) or (1-800-922-1987) before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences. Or if you prefer to request utility notification on-line visit the Utility Notification Center of Colorado at www.uncc2.org.

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to their community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 115 square miles with a population of approximately 115,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.

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