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## Safe gardening and landscaping means calling 8-1-1 first

*April is National Safe Digging Month*

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota** (April 24, 2019) – With snow off the ground, and warmer weather finally here, people will soon begin their annual spring traditions of gardening and landscaping. Xcel Energy reminds customers that April is National Safe Digging Month. To be safe, customers should call 8-1-1 to have underground utility lines marked before beginning any digging projects.

Damaging or striking a single line can create a dangerous situation, cause injury, or result in repair costs, fines and outages. In South Dakota homeowners and contractors should call 8-1-1 or submit an online request to [South Dakota One Call](#) at least two business days in advance of a planned project. Every digging project, large or small, warrants a call. Installing a post for a mailbox, building a deck or planting a tree are all examples of projects that need a call to 8-1-1.

South Dakota One Call will notify the appropriate utility companies of the caller's intent to dig. At no charge, professional locators will mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

There were five excavation incidents last year in South Dakota when buried electric lines were damaged during excavation and not located beforehand.

Customers need to make arrangements with a private locate company to locate lines not owned by a utility, such as a line installed by a homeowner to heat a pool or light a garage.

For more information about 8-1-1 and safe digging practices visit [Call 8-1-1 Before you Dig](#) or [South Dakota One Call](#).

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### **About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

