

**Dominion East Ohio**  
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**Dominion®**

Robert W. Varley  
Managing Director, State & Local Affairs, Midwest

Dear Public Official:

Warmer spring weather brings the new construction season and, unfortunately, a new wave of potentially dangerous incidents of third-party damage to utility lines. To help our customers and the residents of your municipality to protect the safety and reliability of all local underground utility facilities, I want to remind you that April is "National Safe Digging Month."

To ensure public safety, Ohio law requires homeowners and excavating contractors to call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service, (OUPS), toll-free, at either 8-1-1 or 1-800-362-2764, at least two working days before digging. This call can prevent accidental dig-ins, a major cause of utility line damage, and avoid the risk of fire and other potentially dangerous consequences.

As detailed in the enclosed flyer, the new 8-1-1 one-call number makes it easier than ever for homeowners and contractors to prevent third-party damage by having underground facilities located before digging, the primary cause of all utility pipeline incidents. I would urge you to provide a copy of this information to those individuals or contractors seeking excavation permits from your Building Department.

State law requires customers and contractors to call OUPS at least two working days, but not more than ten working days before digging. OUPS will alert Dominion and other participating underground facility owners of the customers' plans to dig. OUPS will notify these facility owners to mark the approximate location of their underground gas lines and utility cables so that customers or contractors won't find them by accident. Also, for safety's sake, once located, customers and contractors should only dig around utility lines by hand.

Some cable television or water companies are not part of this service. Customers would need to contact those companies on their own. Knowing the location of these utility lines will help customers avoid costly damage or loss of service for themselves or their neighbors.

For more natural gas safety information, visit:

- [www.dom.com/about/safety/contractor-safety.jsp](http://www.dom.com/about/safety/contractor-safety.jsp)
- [www.domsafety.com](http://www.domsafety.com)
- [www.safegasohio.org](http://www.safegasohio.org)

If you wish to print additional copies of the enclosed flyer, please follow this link:

- <http://www.dom.com/about/safety/call-before-you-dig.jsp>

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Working together, promoting compliance with this common-sense state law, we can ensure the safety of our customers -- and your constituents.

Sincerely,

*Robert W. Varley*



Know what's **below.**  
**Call before you dig.**

Knowing what's below helps keep  
you safe. Call 811, it's the law!



**Dominion**<sup>®</sup>