



**Stoughton Utilities**

600 South Fourth Street  
P.O. Box 383  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0383

*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jill Weiss, Utilities Director

### **Stoughton Utilities Reminds Customers to Call Before They Dig**

**Stoughton residents can call 811 three days before digging to know what's below.**

As August 11 approaches, Stoughton Utilities reminds customers to use this date on the calendar – 8/11 – to serve as a natural reminder for residents to call 811 prior to any digging project. Calling 811 at least three days prior to digging ensures all underground utility lines are marked, which can save a life.

And in Wisconsin, calling 811 before you dig is state law.

Every few minutes in the United States, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single line – whether electric, water, gas, or telecommunications – can cause injury, repair costs, fines, power outages, or an explosion.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. Stoughton Utilities will arrive within three days to mark our underground electric, water, and sanitary sewer lines, as will the natural gas provider and all telecommunications companies.

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree, and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that require a call to 811 before getting starting.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, we remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to call 811 before digging to reduce the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss. “It really is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area, and what lies beneath the ground.”



The depth of utility lines can vary for reasons such as erosion, previous digging projects, type of utility, and uneven surfaces. Every project requires a new 811 request before digging.

Here's the process for contacting your local 811 call center, courtesy of [call811.com](http://call811.com):

1. Notify your local Digger's Hotline call center by calling 8-1-1, or by making an online request at [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com), at least three days before beginning your project.
2. Wait the required amount of time for all affected utility operators to respond to your request.
3. Visually verify that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities. If you have a reason to believe that not all lines have been located, call 811 to follow-up.
4. Respect the marks.
5. Dig around the marks with care.

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*Wisconsin Diggers' Hotline*  
8-1-1 or (800) 242-8511  
[www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com)

*Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.*