

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, the South Dakota One Call Notification Board encourages and promotes calling 811 before digging to preserve personal safety and the integrity of underground utilities; and,

*Whereas*, calling 811 sets into motion a series of steps whereby underground utilities are visually marked to direct excavators to dig safely, which minimizes the damage and danger of hitting an underground utility line; and,

*Whereas*, the consequences of jeopardizing or damaging a utility line include service interruption, damage to the environment, and injury or even death; and,

*Whereas*, through communication of safe digging practices, homeowners and excavators can save time and money and remain safe by making a simple call to 811 prior to a digging project; and,

*Whereas*, requests for underground facility locates can be made by calling 811 or entering the request electronically via the South Dakota One Call Portal on [www.sdonecall.com](http://www.sdonecall.com) website, where requests are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and,

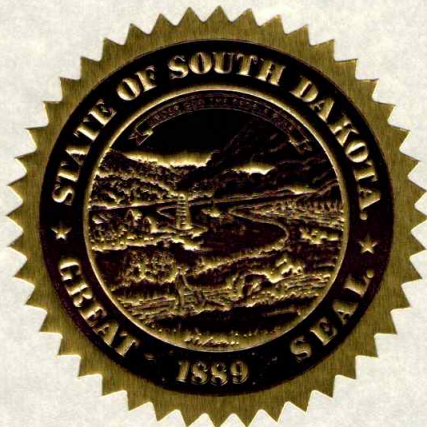
*Whereas*, in 2025, the South Dakota 811 Center fielded over 166,000 locate requests, resulting in just over 864,000 dispatches sent to utility companies to mark their underground facilities at excavation sites; and,

*Whereas*, excavation activity in South Dakota often increases in the spring months among homeowners, farmers, ranchers, and professional excavators, making April an excellent time to remind the public that safe digging is crucial, and to "Know What's Below - Call 811 Before You Dig.";

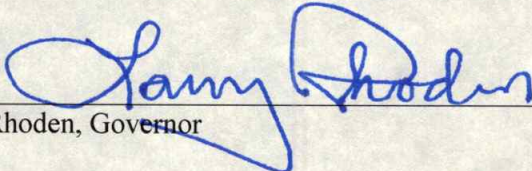
*Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2026, as

## *Safe Digging Month*

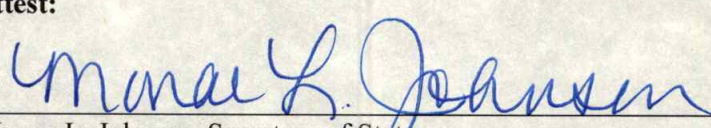
in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-Sixth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

  
Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:

  
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State