

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2017 MEDIA CONTACT: Angie Holdsworth (602) 542-0844

The Arizona Corporation Commission along with Arizona 811, formerly Arizona Blue stake, will hold its first Damage Prevention Safety Seminar of the year for contractors to prevent damage and possible injury when digging.

It is estimated that the total number of underground excavation damages in the U.S. was 317,000 in 2015. Last year, 11 people were killed and 58 injured nationwide from hitting underground utility lines. It is also estimated that an underground line is damaged every 6 minutes because someone decided to dig without calling 811.

The seminar will include a presentation by Corporation Commission Pipeline Inspectors and members of the 811 team. Participants learn how to protect themselves from serious injuries, prevent damage to the utilities we rely on, and protect their company from incurring fines.

Anyone who is working on a project which will require digging must call 811 at least two full working days before beginning the project. The utilities will be notified and will come out and mark with paint or flags where their utility lines are buried.

You must register in advance for the seminars which will fill up fast. To register and to see upcoming seminars go to http://www.azbluestake.com/education-and-training/. The seminars are held at the Arizona 811 office at 1405. W. Auto Park Drive in Tempe. For questions about you can contact the Arizona Corporation Commission's Pipeline Safety Division at (602) 262-5601 or www.azcc.gov or Arizona 811 at (602) 659-7500 www.azcc.gov or

Established by Article 15 of the state's constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp