## NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION ===

## SAFE DIGGING MONTH APRIL 2020

WHEREAS, each year, the nation's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage by those who fail to call 8-1-1 to have underground facilities located prior to digging, resulting in possible undesired consequences such as service interruptions, damage to the environment, personal injury and even death; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to reduce damages, the North Dakota Public Service Commission, North Dakota One Call Board and Common Ground Alliance promote the national Call-Before-You-Dig number, 8-1-1, as well as the use of safe digging practices; and

WHEREAS, designated by the Federal Communications Commission in 2005, 8-1-1 provides potential excavators and homeowners a simple number to reach their local One Call Center to request utility locations at the intended dig site; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota law requires that anyone planning excavation or demolition must notify North Dakota 8-1-1 and, if a facility must be located, personnel will be sent to mark the location of underground facilities; and

WHEREAS, through education of safe digging practices, excavators and homeowners can save time and money keeping our nation safe and connected by making a simple call to 8-1-1 in advance of any digging project, waiting the required amount of time for the utility to be located, respecting the location marks by maintaining visual definition throughout the excavation and, finally, digging with care around the marks; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota excavators and homeowners are encouraged to know what is below and to call 8-1-1 before digging to ensure the safety and connectivity of our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2020, SAFE DIGGING MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

ON MODERAL OF THE STATE OF THE

Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger

SECRETARY OF STATE