Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.
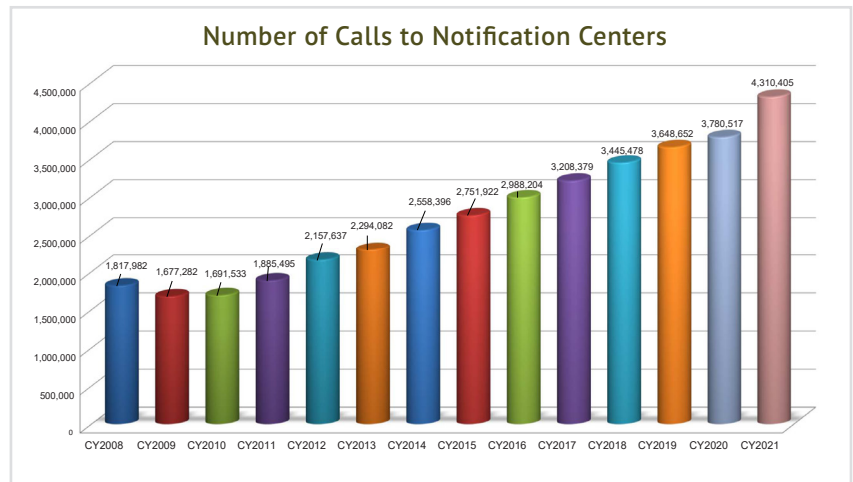
April is Safe Digging Month

It should not be that surprising that the number one cause for pipeline incidents is not calling 811 to have underground utilities located, according to Railroad Commission statistics for 2021.

Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation recently emphasizing 811 and recognizing April as Safe Digging Month to bring awareness of the serious public safety consequences should pipelines or other underground utilities be damaged anywhere in Texas.

Homeowners, excavators, and contractors are required to call 811 before digging, which prompts utility operators to come and mark the location of underground cables and utilities, including pipelines.

RRC statistics show the effectiveness of calling 811 in preventing pipeline damage is better than it has ever been. In 2020, the total number of 811 calls to locate was 3.78 million, which jumped to 4.31 million in 2021.

The rate of pipeline incidents actually dropped in 2021 to 2.21 incidents per 1,000 calls to locate; the rate was 2.5 incidents per 1,000 calls in 2020. The rate has been steadily dropping since the first full year of recordkeeping started in 2008 when there were 6.44 pipeline incidents per 1,000.

Number of Calls to Notification Centers

Year	Calls
CY2008	1,817,982
CY2009	1,677,282
CY2010	1,691,533
CY2011	1,885,495
CY2012	2,157,637
CY2013	2,294,082
CY2014	2,558,396
CY2015	2,751,922
CY2016	2,988,204
CY2017	3,208,379
CY2018	3,445,478
CY2019	3,648,652
CY2020	3,780,517
CY2021	4,310,405

Damages per Thousand by Calendar Year

Year	Rate
CY 2008	6.44
CY 2009	5.52
CY 2010	5.04
CY 2011	4.73
CY 2012	3.79
CY 2013	3.77
CY 2014	3.31
CY 2015	3.20
CY 2016	3.03
CY 2017	2.86
CY 2018	2.57
CY 2019	2.59
CY 2020	2.50
CY 2021	2.21

811

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

Calling 811 is free but must be made at least two business days before digging. Locator personnel are dispatched to the digging site to mark the locations of underground pipelines and utilities with flags, spray paint or both.

Location requests can also be filed online at the Texas 811 website at **https://www.texas811.org/**. To see 2021 statistics in more detail, visit **RRC's Damage Prevention Statistics webpage**.