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**internal talking points for April DigSafe Month**

Many damage prevention stakeholders often begin each meeting with a safety message. Below, the [REGIONAL CGA PARTNER] has provided talking points that can be presented at your company’s next safety meeting during April to help educate employees about ClickBeforeYouDig.com and its role in protecting the safety of workers, customers and entire communities.

Key messages:

* Every digging project requires a visit to ClickBeforeYouDig.com.
* Submitting a locate request through ClickBeforeYouDig.com a few days prior to digging notifies utility companies of the intent to dig and gives representatives time to mark the appropriate lines.
* April is the start of the spring digging season, a natural reminder for people to always click before you dig.

How Click Before You Dig works:

* Visiting ClickBeforeYouDig.com will connect you with your local one-call centre.
* Requesting locates online is a convenient way to submit a request at your convenience. A ticket confirmation will be sent via email once your request has been processed.
* When submitting your locate request, provide an accurate location and description of the planned digging site.
* The affected utility companies will be notified of the intent to dig.
* The utility companies will each send a professional locator to the digging site to identify and mark the approximate location of the underground lines.
* Once lines have been marked, you should respect the marks and dig carefully around them.
* If you must dig within one meter of a buried utility, use hand tools to carefully expose the line before digging further.

Types of projects:

* Lines need to be marked for each separate project, such as putting up a fence, planting a tree or building a deck.
* Submit your locate request a few days prior to digging to allow time for professional locators to mark the utility lines.
* Even if you’ve hired a contractor, make sure the contractor visits ClickBeforeYouDig.com to have lines marked.

Consequences:

* Every year, the estimated cost of damaging buried utilities in Canada is more than $1 billion.
* Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause serious injuries, disrupt service to entire neighborhoods, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.
* Even minor marks or dents can compromise a buried utility's overall integrity and lead to problems at a later date.

More information:

* To learn more about damage prevention in Canada, visit DigSafeCanada.ca.