



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EMPIRE DISTRICT GAS COMPANY ENCOURAGES USE OF ONE CALL SYSTEM

JOPLIN, MO – April 26, 2016 – Building a fence or planting a tree? Wait! Before you start digging, you need to know what's below. The Empire District Gas Company encourages customers to call before they dig and ask to have the underground utilities located. Simply call 811, the nationwide one call system, or 800-DIG-RITE (800-344-7483), the Missouri One Call system.

This is a free service provided by The Empire District Gas Company and other local utilities. Customers should call at least three, but not more than ten, working days before they plan to dig. The utilities will mark the location of underground facilities so customers can steer clear of them and stay safe.

This single call will allow customers to avoid the possibility of a serious injury and the expense of repair costs for damaged utilities.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electric, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 218,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the Company also provides fiber optic services.

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