

# EnergyCentral



## April is national Dig Safely Month

April is designated as national Dig Safely Month, and Central Hudson reminds anyone planning to dig to first call 811, the toll-free Dig Safely hotline, so that underground utility lines and equipment can be marked and properly identified prior to the start of excavation. The service is provided at no cost to the caller.

“During this time, many major construction projects may be postponed or suspended in support of social distancing, however it is important anytime to call before you dig,” said Charles A. Freni, President and CEO of Central Hudson. “Calling the toll-free Dig Safely hotline is the law, and even homeowners tackling backyard projects are reminded to first call 811 so that underground lines are marked out. Prevention is the best way to avoid serious consequences associated with contacting or damaging underground utility lines.”

Freni said that before digging, even by hand on a resident’s own property, call 811 at least two to 10

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## Central Hudson's Municipal Portal Now Available

*Interactive site provides critical information*

Central Hudson’s Municipal Portal is now open to emergency responders and local governments. The two-way interactive tool is an important resource, providing critical information, easy reporting and customized alerts when addressing major storm events and other emergencies. Municipal, county and state officials will soon receive information by email on how to enroll and set passwords, provide staff members with access to the portal, and online training and webinars offered by Central Hudson to explain and review the use of the portal.

“The severe wind storm of mid-April is a stark reminder of the potential impacts weather events can bring to the Mid-Hudson Valley,” said Charles A. Freni, President and C.E.O. of Central Hudson. “Downed trees and wires,

blocked streets and roads and power outages affect homes, businesses and can curtail emergency response; and events like these are particularly troublesome during the current pandemic,” he said. “Communication and coordination with our municipal, county and state partners is critical in restoring services timely and safely. Our new Municipal Portal offers greater options, awareness and enhancements in addressing storms and other emergencies.”

The Municipal Portal features an exclusive electric outage map specific to each jurisdiction that offers outage and restoration information for critical facilities, such as hospitals, water treatment plants, nursing homes, etc., and the

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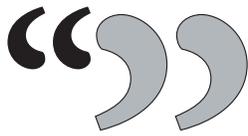
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# Portal: Site enhances communication, coordination

status and cause of emergencies, such as downed wires, trees and road closures. The portal will also display locations of dry ice and bottled water distribution sites, warming centers and Federal Emergency Management Agency shelters during prolonged outages. It provides important information to each municipality and allows for interactive, two-way reporting between municipalities and counties and Central Hudson.

A video overview of the portal highlighting its primary features can be viewed [here](#).



***Our intent is to improve information flow, share field conditions with emergency managers and provide better transparency during emergencies with all stakeholders.***

**CHARLES A. FRENI**

PRESIDENT & CEO, CENTRAL HUDSON

By subscribing to outage notifications, users will be alerted automatically by email and/or text message on the status of critical facilities of their choosing within their unique jurisdictions. Municipal and county staff and representatives will also have the ability to report incidents online and while in the field using their cell phones and mobile devices, such as outages affecting critical facilities, the locations of downed wires and/or blocked roads and other important information, to help coordinate

response and repairs. The portal will display status of reported incidents and users will receive notifications on estimated restoration times and when repairs are completed.

“Our intent is to improve information flow, share field conditions with emergency managers and provide better transparency during emergencies with all stakeholders, including municipal leaders, government officials, highway departments, emergency responders and Central Hudson,” said Freni.

In addition to emergency response, the Municipal Portal also provides valuable summary information on energy use and efficiency measures for each jurisdiction. This include overall participation in Central Hudson’s energy efficiency programs by residents and businesses, consolidated and average energy use by municipality, carbon footprint, energy savings achieved to date and ways in which officials may wish to share and promote energy efficiency initiatives with their constituents.

“After an earlier test launch, the Municipal Portal is ready for use, and we’re excited to offer this new and valuable tool,” said Freni.

To safeguard information and maintain confidentiality, particularly regarding critical facilities, Municipal Portal participants must register with user a name and password. An informational email with registration instructions will be sent to the contacts Central Hudson has on file for the storm briefings conference calls, starting on May 12. An instructional webinar is planned for May 28 at 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (“storm date” on June 2), with how-to instructions to familiarize participants with the portal’s many features. ✨

Municipalities, counties and state officials may reach out to their Central Hudson District Directors to add new staff members or restrict staff access to the portal, and to update any current contact information:

- **POUGHKEEPSIE DISTRICT:**  
Victor Narkaj, vnarkaj@cenhud.com, 845-486-5474, cell 845-235-6185
- **FISHKILL DISTRICT:**  
Robin Moore, rmmoore@cenhud.com, (845) 897-6152, cell 845-705-3008
- **NEWBURGH DISTRICT:**  
Lisa Carver, lcarver@cenhud.com, (845) 563-4529, cell 914-489-0603
- **KINGSTON/CATSKILL DISTRICT:** Jason Malizia, jmalizia@cenhud.com, (845) 334-3513, cell 845-702-4282
- State and federal officials may contact Alana Daly, adaly@cenhud.com, 845-486-5579, cell 845-245-7161

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

An instructional webinar is planned on May 28, 2020 at 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (“storm date” June 2). More information will be sent by email.

# Dig safely: Call 811, the toll-free hotline, before digging

days before any excavation takes place. There is no charge for the service, and utility crews will locate and mark lines at no cost to the caller.

Dig Safely New York has developed a comprehensive Excavator Certification

Program in Best Practices for Safe Digging. Completion of this course will satisfy New York state legislation that requires contractors employed by a municipality to complete a training program.

Additional information about the Dig Safely New York One-Call system and requirements for excavating near marked lines is available at [www.DigSafelyNewYork.com](http://www.DigSafelyNewYork.com). ✨