

The 811 Abbreviated Dialing Code December 2005

811 Background:

In March 2005, the FCC issued an Order which assigned the 811 dialing code to establish One Call notification systems, as part of its efforts to implement the Pipeline Safety Act. The Order:

- Requires the use of 811 within two years after publication in the Federal Register (which took place April 13, 2005).
- Delegates' authority to the state commissions to address the technical and operational issues associated with the implementation of the 811 code.
- Allows carriers to use either the Numbering Plan Area (NPA-NXX) or the originating switch to determine the appropriate One Call Center to which a call should be routed.
- Intends the 811 code to be deployed ubiquitously...all telecommunications carriers including wireline, wireless and payphone service providers.

811 Dialing Code: Benefits & Issues:

The potential benefits of an 811 dialing code would:

- Provide a toll-free number for contractors and property owners to reach the local One Call Center to notify of plans to excavate.
- Enhance public safety, protect the environment, minimize risks to excavators and strengthen homeland security.

Potential issues in implementing an 811 Dialing Code may include the following:

- The FCC Order is as an “unfunded mandate” with no listed method of cost recovery for implementation or continued operations.
- Although intended to be ubiquitous, the FCC was silent on whether applicable to VoIP providers.

CPUC's Initial Step to Implement:

On **Wednesday, December 14, 2005 (10:00 a.m. in Training Room A)**, the Telecommunications Division (TD) will hold an informational workshop for all telecommunications carriers regarding the statewide implementation of “811” as a national abbreviated dialing code. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss how best to implement 811 in the state and to clarify any potential technical and regulatory issues affecting its implementation.