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WINTER 2022 • VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 4

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Supporting Global Excavation Safety





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FROM THE
PUBLISHER



BY SCOTT LANDES

SAVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Our mission at Infrastructure Resources (IR) is “Saving Lives through Education™”, which is reflected in everything we do, including *dp-PRO* magazine. The magazine launched in 2010 as *Damage Prevention Professional* magazine. That title was very descriptive of our readers, but it was a mouthful to say, so in 2019 we rebranded to today’s name, *dp-PRO*. There are hundreds of thousands of professionals across the world who have jobs involving damage prevention, but only a small portion of them actually view themselves as damage prevention professionals. This means the name *dp-PRO* doesn’t click with the majority.

“THE PRIMARY
MISSION IS TO PROTECT
CONTRACTORS AND
THE PUBLIC FROM BEING
HURT WHILE DIGGING”

One problem with the label “damage prevention” is that to some people it sounds like the focus is on protecting pipelines and cables. Those of us who are active in the damage prevention industry realize that while protecting pipelines and cables is important, the primary mission is to protect contractors and the public from being hurt while digging. This is why since starting our conference in 2006, the name has included “Excavation Safety” and our 80-plus sessions have the same focus. Our annual *Excavation Safety Guide*, which started in 2005 (over 10,000,000 in print), also covers this vital content.

At IR, we are continually trying to find ways to make our education available to the silent majority who do not realize they are involved in damage prevention. Karin Strub, VP of Communications at IR, was recently attending a conference with attendees outside the normal group of people who consider themselves to be involved in damage prevention. After having to explain what *dp-PRO* was over and over, it was clear the name was not helping us draw in new readers and champions to help save lives through education. When she brought this up to the team, it seemed obvious.

With our Conference named the Global Excavation Safety Conference, our annual guide named the *Excavation Safety Guide*, and our education platform named the Excavation Safety Alliance, it seemed painfully obvious our magazine should become the *Excavation Safety Magazine*. The content already supports that, so nothing needs to change except the name. So, beginning in 2023, *dp-PRO* will be renamed *Excavation Safety Magazine*.



Same focused content, same multi-media print and online format, same mission of “Saving Lives through Education”, but a new name that we hope will resonate with even more damage prevention professionals across the world. **DP**

..... **CHAMPION**



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Glen “Cookie” Cook

An Innovator and Driver of Energy Queensland Initiatives

GLEN “COOKIE” COOK IS A PASSIONATE POWERLINE SAFETY ADVOCATE. HE IS CURRENTLY A PRINCIPAL COMMUNITY SAFETY SPECIALIST FOR ENERGY QUEENSLAND WITH CLOSE TO 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES INDUSTRIES.

In 2020, Glen received the Australian Health and Safety Professional of the Year award. In 2021, he was honored with the Queensland Community Achievement – Synaco Safety Award. According to Aaron Smith, Health Safety and Community Manager with Energy Queensland, “Cookie’s passionate and dedicated contributions to preventing damage and reducing accidental powerline contact incidents is widespread.”



Glen is a member of the Electrical Safety Education Committee, advising the Queensland Electrical Safety Board and the Electrical Safety Office. He also assists Before You Dig Australia and DBYD Certified Locators to raise awareness at community events by providing keynotes/safety talks across Australia.

“Cookie has shared his knowledge and passion with many Australian and international power companies. He has spoken at multiple State and National Industry Conferences and has shared his expertise to thousands of members of the Civil Construction, Excavation, Agricultural, Trucking, Crane and Aviation industries,” Smith said. “Prior to COVID, Cookie spoke at a large Geospatial Conference in Atlanta, about the success of the geospatial powerline planning tool, known as the lookupandlive.com app.”

“Cookie is a legend and I, and Energy Queensland, are lucky to have him working with us.”

One of Glen’s biggest achievements has been his work as a driving force behind the lookupandlive.com app, which was awarded the “Best Solution to an Identified Electrical Risk” at the 2019 Worksafe Queensland Awards. The tool allows workers to adequately plan their work near powerlines, obtaining plans of the networks, information on adequate control measures, and ability to apply for expert safety advice, all free of charge. The lookupandlive.com tool was also recognized by the Aerial Application Association of Australia (AAAA) in 2019, with Ergon/Energex, for winning the “Leland Snow” Innovation Award. Glen has also worked closely with AAAA on a

range of safety programs and sat on the Standards Australia Committee for the rewrite of the national powerline marking standard AS3891-2.

Glen has also been a first responder to serious injury/burns and fatalities due to third party accidental contact with powerlines. “Glen works tirelessly to share safety messages and highlight the very real consequences of the wrong attitude towards powerline safety,” Smith added. “He has made it his business to understand the way the industries he is supporting operate so he can provide practical and effective safety advice.”

So, what makes Glen “Cookie” Cook a *dp-PRO* Damage Prevention Hero?

“Cookie freely gives his time and knowledge to any safety organization or project,” said Sher Kirk, Operations Director with Utility Safety Partners. “He is an incredible ambassador for powerline safety.”

“Cookie fosters a positive and proactive association of powerline safety messages within the community by building awareness of the dangers of accidental contact with overhead and underground powerlines,” Smith added. “His very effective method is to engage, educate and enable workers. Cookie is very much an advocate for the working community, understanding what it is they need and making it easier for people to get information and change their behavior when working around powerlines.”

“Glen directly contributed to the overwhelming success we had at a training event we held around the metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland,” said Rhett Simonds, Group Chairman & CEO of Simonds Group. “It’s great to work with people who can make a difference by positively influencing people who in turn, can influence industry to create a safer working environment.”

With all of the accolades going Glen “Cookie” Cook’s way, Aaron Smith probably said it best, “Cookie is a legend and I, and Energy Queensland, are lucky to have him working with us. He is making a big difference in saving both people’s lives and livelihoods.” 





BY MONICA WOFFORD, CSP

Your Role in RECOVERY

S **TORM SEASON** is upon us and whether the weather is quiet or active, it affects your role, position, and operations. How do you recover? What is your role in recovery efforts as a leader? And don't those same answers apply to all recovery efforts including a misstep in communication, a less than effective interaction at an upcoming conference, or a conversation with friends and loved ones that didn't quite come off as you planned it? "Yes" is the real answer.

When you're a leader, your role in recovery touches every action and aspect of leading you and leading others. It's not always easy to lead that charge and humble pie and crow are viable menu options in all cases, but the steps outlined below will dramatically improve how quickly and effectively you, and others, are able to recover, rebound and move forward.

Assess the Situation

As the upcoming Global Excavation Conference is in Tampa, let's use Floridians and hurricanes as an example. Long time Floridians accept that hurricanes can be an issue, just as Californians accept earthquakes. After each storm has passed, there is an assessment done of the damage. Much as you might fully assess where ALL lines and cables are buried, take the time to assess ALL aspects of the situation from which you need recovery. Conduct a virtual walk-around. Who all was involved? What was their contribution to the matter? How did the action from which recovery is needed impact your customer or team members? Lead the effort to gather all details and input because without all the information, any action taken may miss the mark or create more issues and sabotage solutions.

Address Needed Action

Once you know what happened, who with, and your contribution to it, address it. But, what does that mean exactly? A common response to a blunder or error or mistake we made and either intended, or wish we hadn't, is to avoid it and inhabit a well-known location called denial. Leaders don't have that luxury. Problems left unattended fester and spread into bigger issues. If you had a stressful day and the wheels fell off and you went way off the rails in barking at a team member on the phone, or in person, assess, then address it. Consider apologizing for the way you approached the person. Consider mentioning you hear or see his or her perspective. (This does not mean you agree, but rather that you realize their perspective has value and is simply different!) Or perhaps all you say is you realize the interaction was not ideal and you are wanting to approach

"When you're a leader, your role in recovery touches every action and aspect of leading you and leading others."

similar situations in a different manner in the future. To recover requires active participation, not passive.

Set the Example

Leadership is a daily action best done at a conscious level. Whether you are a leader by title, the leader by tenure, or simply on the front line at work and only the leader of those you call family, the act of leading means you get to set the example. In recovery, it means you lead the way in repairing relationships. You lead the way in showing, to the best of your current ability, that we're all human and that part of moving forward requires we recover from missteps that can and will happen. Don't teach others that making mistakes is not an option or they'll stop trying new things and then you'll wonder what happened to all of their initiative.

Instead, if you were hung over that morning of the conference and said something snarky to a colleague in the hall, own it. Find them later and address it. If you snapped at a loved one on the phone when everything was falling apart on a job and equipment was failing, take action as soon as you're able, and readily address it and seek understanding from the recipient of your stress level. Managing emotions and stress and recovering from uncomfortable situations, no matter if they're a storm from mother nature or a storm from a colleague, loved one or vendor, is not always easy, but when you're a leader, it is necessary. **DP**

Monica Wofford, CSP is a leadership development specialist, keynote speaker, and executive coach. For more information on her books, training firm or coaching services, call 1-866-382-0121, or go to www.ContagiousCompanies.com.

THIS COLUMN EXPLORES TIPS AND TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE YOUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH CO-WORKERS, CUSTOMERS AND INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS.



2022

• STAFF REPORT •

Damage Prevention Hero of the Year

Ketha Molina (Spring, 2022)

An Unrivaled Commitment to a Culture of Safety. Ketha Molina is the Senior Damage Prevention Manager for Texas811, Vice President of the Damage Prevention Council of Texas, and President of Leading Women of Damage Prevention. She has more than 19 years of establishing and cultivating strong partnerships, implementing successful programs and initiatives, creating a culture of empowerment and workplace responsibility, and using her skills to advance and develop safety. Ketha serves as a liaison between Texas811, the regional Hispanic Contractors Association, and Hispanic Contractors Association de Tejas. On the national level, she has built a strong foundation for the Leading Women of Damage Prevention enterprise.

Read the full article here: dp-pro.com/damage-prevention-hero-ketha-molina



Joe Rubbelke (Special Locate, 2022)

Committed to Excellence. Joe Rubbelke is a Director for UtilityLogic, a Minnesota-based company that provides innovative products, technical assistance and training to the Utility Locating Industry. Joe presents and instructs on utility locating, tracer wire installation and trench safety at dozens of workshops, conferences and technical training events across the various industries (gas, electric, communications, water and sewer). He is also well-known for providing lectures, presentations and exhibits on safe excavation/confined space entry. Joe is a co-author of the Minnesota Rural Water Tracer Wire Specification used in all 50 states and four additional countries.

Read the full article here: dp-pro.com/damage-prevention-hero-joe-rubbelke

Geoff Zeiss (Summer, 2022)

A True Visionary in the Geospatial Sector. Prior to passing away earlier this year, Geoff Zeiss had more than 20 years of experience in the geospatial software industry and more than 15 years working with utilities, communications and public works around the world. Geoff was a frequent speaker at geospatial and utility events around the world, including Geospatial World Forum, where he received the Geospatial Ambassador Award in 2014. He received the Speaker Excellence Award at GITA 2017-2019. In 2020, Geoff co-authored the GITA White Paper: "Reducing Damage to Underground Utility Infrastructure during Excavation, Costs, Benefits, Technical Advances, Case Studies and Recommendations."

Read the full article here: dp-pro.com/damage-prevention-hero-geoff-zeiss





Danny Nichols (Fall, 2022)

Celebrating an Industry Veteran and Visionary. Prior to passing away earlier this year, Danny Nichols spent more than 30 years in the Pipeline Industry, working in both gas transmission and distribution. His involvement included design, construction, maintenance and emergency response of natural gas & hazardous liquid transmission, gathering and storage facilities. Danny worked for Energy Transfer Company for 17 years and was the Sr. Director of Regulatory Compliance/Government Affairs. He also served on the Scholarship Committee at Energy Transfer. Danny was also very active with the Texas Gas Association and Louisiana Gas Association. Prior to his passing, Danny was on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Transmission Committee with Texas Gas.

Read the full article here: dp-pro.com/damage-prevention-hero-danny-nichols

Glen “Cookie” Cook (Winter, 2022)

An Innovator and Driver of Energy Queensland Initiatives. Glen “Cookie” Cook is a Principal Community Safety Specialist for Energy Queensland, with close to 30 years of experience working within the construction and utilities industries. He received the 2020 Australian Health and Safety Professional of the Year Award and the 2021 Queensland Community Achievement Award. Glen has shared his knowledge and passion with many Australian and international power companies. One of his biggest achievements has been his work as a driving force behind the lookupandlive.com tool, allowing workers to plan their work near powerlines in a safe manner. He is considered an expert and ambassador for powerline safety.

Read the full article on page 8.



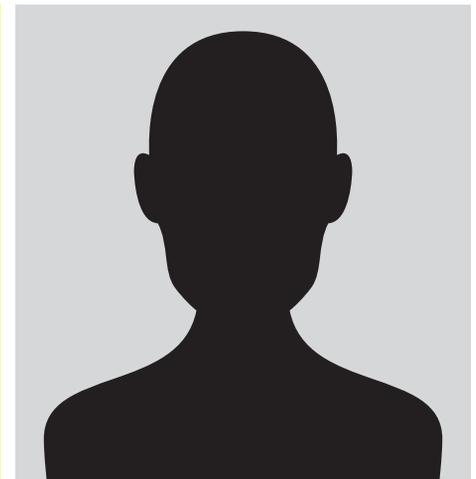
2022 Damage Prevention Hero of the Year

- Ketha Molina
- Joe Rubbelke
- Geoff Zeiss
- Danny Nichols
- Glen “Cookie” Cook

Snap a pic of your vote and email it to info@IR-SavingLives.com or go to dp-pro.com/dp-pro-hero-of-the-year-voting to vote online. 

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NEWS

KOHLBERG & COMPANY TO ACQUIRE 50% STAKE IN USIC

Partners Group, a leading global private markets firm, has agreed to sell 50% of United States Infrastructure Corporation (USIC) to Kohlberg & Company, a leading private equity firm based in Mount Kisco, New York.

USIC currently serves more than 1,300 customers in the U.S. and Canada across six utility markets: cable, telecom, electric, gas, water and sewer. It has a workforce of 9,000 technicians that perform 80 million locates each year. Partners Group acquired USIC in 2017 and currently has more than 1,600 professionals across 20 offices worldwide, with regional headquarters in Baar-Zug, Switzerland; Denver, Colorado; and Singapore.

"Underlying excavation demand has remained stable for decades, driven by routine infrastructure maintenance as well as commercial and residential construction, and we are now looking ahead to a new period of market growth," said Mike Ryan, CEO of USIC. "Partners Group has been instrumental in transforming USIC's services and we are now delighted to continue working with the firm while also welcoming Kohlberg on board."

Kohlberg was founded in 1987. Over its 35 year history, the firm has completed 91 platform investments and nearly 250 add-on acquisitions, with an aggregate transaction value of approximately \$40 billion. The transaction values USIC at an enterprise value of \$4.1 billion.



Geoff Zeiss' Memory Lives on through Research Fund

For over 30 years, Geoff Zeiss devoted his life to the Geospatial industry and community across the world. It was a life focused on the utility and construction sectors, mapping underground utility infrastructure, BIM, CAD, Geospatial interoperability, machine learning, and substation design.

Zeiss spoke at events and forums all over the world. He was also recognized for his dedication and efforts. During the years 2007-2009, he received the Speaker Excellence Award at GITA. He also received one of 10 global technology awards from Oracle Corporation for "technical innovation and leadership in the use of Oracle" in 2004. Geoff was also named a Damage Professional Hero earlier this year by *dp-PRO*.

Sadly, Geoff passed away on September 14, 2022.

But now, Carleton University has started a research fund in honor of Geoff. The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies will use the funds raised to improve the efficiency and safety of the construction industry, through graduate student scholarships to post-doctoral fellowships to longer-term and endowed research positions.

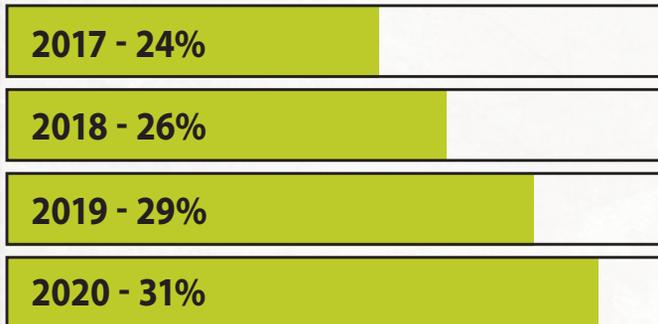
EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) provides first responders with a go-to manual to help deal with hazmat transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes. The Department of Transportation's goal is to place an ERG in every public emergency service vehicle nationwide. To date, more than 16 million free copies have been distributed to the emergency response community through state emergency management coordinators. Members of the public may purchase a copy of ERG through the GPO Bookstore and other commercial suppliers. The 2020 ERG, which replaces and updates the 2016 version, is available in English, French and Spanish. 

DIRTFACTS CGA

EXCERPTED FROM THE 2020 DIRT ANNUAL REPORT

Percent of Damages due to "No Locate Request"



WANT TO KNOW MORE? ACCESS THE ENTIRE 2020 REPORT AT CGA-DIRT.COM.



Updated API Standard for Pipeline Public Awareness Programs Enhances Public Safety

BY TERRI LARSON

On August 11, 2022, “National Call Before You Dig” day, the American Petroleum Institute (API) released an updated standard for pipeline public awareness programs, which helps protect buried utilities, local communities, and the people who live and work near pipeline rights of way.

Recommended Practice (RP) 1162, *Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators*, 3rd Edition, establishes minimum requirements and offers updated guidance for operators of pipeline and storage systems that are required by federal or state pipeline safety laws to implement public awareness programs.

The way people communicate and want to receive information has changed significantly since the 1st Edition of RP 1162 was published in 2003 and incorporated by reference into regulation by the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) in 2005. Most people today seek information using social media channels or digital platforms, such as company websites and search engines, and approximately 80 % of the U.S. population uses text messaging to send and receive information. However, RP 1162 (and current regulation) excludes those channels as methods of providing pipeline safety information to stakeholders because they weren’t available at publication in 2003.

Other drivers for the revision included a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, including a review of inspection learnings, led by PHMSA, and a subsequent review of those SWOT analysis findings by an industry team focused on identifying key themes for an eventual revision of RP 1162.

In addition to building on more than 15 years of learnings from the implementation of public



American Petroleum Institute

awareness programs, as well as learnings from reviews of similar programs in peer industries, the newly revised 3rd Edition:

- Allows flexibility for both existing social and digital platforms and emerging technologies.
- Introduces new language to address certain operational changes that may require additional communication based on the introduction of new hazards or a change in emergency contact information.
- Clarifies terms—such as “liaison”—that had not been consistently defined in the 1st Edition.
- Updates the frequency of communication with key stakeholders.
- Provides guidance on when operators may benefit from participating with other pipeline operators in collaborative programs while still meeting their program objectives.

One key difference between RP 1162 and other non-technical standards has been a requirement

to measure program effectiveness and revise programs as indicated by that evaluation. Behavior change, a key evaluation element in the 1st Edition, has been replaced in the 3rd Edition with a requirement to measure behavioral intent (or a percent of stakeholders who state they intend to behave in alignment with guidance or messaging provided). This change is intended to help operators better understand their stakeholders’ knowledge of pipelines and pipeline safety and to enable more effective interactions between operators and their stakeholders.

The 3rd Edition is also organized around a Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) framework, or implementation cycle, for public awareness programs. The PDCA cycle—a four-step iterative process for continuous assessment and improvement—was introduced in RP 1173, *Pipeline Safety Management Systems*.

The task group, which began work on the 3rd Edition in 2017, comprises pipeline operators, associations for emergency responders, school and agriculture extensions, industry consultants and public awareness vendors, industry trade associations, and state and federal pipeline safety regulators. Additionally, the task group sought external expertise on leading practices in risk communication, measurement of communication and outreach programs (including a review of measurement practices of those programs in peer industries), and public participation in infrastructure projects. **DP**

For more information on RP 1162, 3rd Edition, please visit www.api.org.

Special Note: Join Sam Minifie, API, at the Global Excavation Safety Conference in Tampa to learn more about RP 1162 Updates.

Leveraging Technology to Speed Up Locates

BY SHANE HART

Locate requests not being completed on time continues to be a challenge within the damage prevention industry, according to the CGA 2020 DIRT Report. The 2021 Next Practices Report identified it as a "critical issue that erodes excavator confidence in the system."

The locate industry is always under pressure to improve, whether that's reducing damages or doing more locates in an allocated time. Locators in the field are put under pressure to perform quickly, but they are also liable to ensure that their locates are accurate. Safety is the number one goal, and we don't want to compromise on that, but if we can help staff out in the field complete locates faster, then everyone benefits. Across North America, there are backlogs of public locates and there doesn't seem to be a way to reduce the backlog other than completing more locates. Unfortunately, there isn't enough economic incentive to hire the staff required to meet these demands, and over the last few years it's been increasingly difficult to find staff that are qualified and enthusiastic to work in the field. The CGA 2020 DIRT Report states, "Late locates are also a major contributor to near-miss/downtime events. Based on the numbers provided by the One Call centers, it is clear that the near misses reported to DIRT greatly undercount actual occurrences." The following tips and tricks will speed up locates, reduce the stress on locators and meet the demand for locates by embracing the mantra of "working smarter, not harder."

Let's focus first on your team. Whether you're a small locate team or have hundreds of employees, your locators in the field and office



staff must work in conjunction to complete locate tickets quickly and efficiently. Empowering them to do their jobs faster means making them more proficient. This might involve extra equipment training, new techniques, knowledge transfer from more experienced staff and improving communications. You should be able to compile data on your staff to see how they are performing. For a locator, that might come from your ticket management system, which should show metrics like tickets completed per day and number of unlocatables. Tracking these key numbers will give you a better understanding of the workload and performance of your staff.

One of the foundational principles of locating is taking your time to locate everything. This runs contrary to the goal of speeding up locates, but the number of lines mislocated due to an

operator not paying attention is already too high. Therefore, we need to find efficiencies elsewhere. To do this, you can make some informed decisions by yourself and in addition, if you have a ticket management system in place, it should be able to make some of those decisions for you based on artificial intelligence. The end product here is that you set goals and improve the speed of your locates without sacrificing quality or accuracy.

Here are eight ways you can leverage technology to speed up your utility locate ticket completions:

1. Tracking damages within your GIS database allows for informed decisions to be made down the road, whether that's increasing resources for a specific utility or moving locators around to increase efficiency.
2. Collecting mapping as you go and adding to a GIS database with software like Utility Mapper will save time in the long run and should improve the accuracy of your locates.
3. Automating dispatching should be possible through your locate ticket management system and is a super-efficient way to bypass your dispatcher and go straight to your locator. Tickets that require field stake out become available for completion to your locator instantly.
4. Trimming office staff to increase field resources is possible after you automate a lot of the dispatch processes and set up your ticket management system to handle functions like Ticket Overflow and Positive Response.

5. Triaging tickets into risk levels allows your locators to prioritize tickets and could mean reallocating the ticket to a more experienced technician.

6. Syncing with the Utility's GIS mapping systems allows locators to have real-time map access. This makes several processes easier, including clearing and locating in the field.

7. Tracking hookup for locators allows you to gather data and drive efficiency in this process. You can't be in the field, but by using technology, you can export this data and thus improve the speed of locating utilities.

8. Another important technology implementation that our customers take advantage of, is automated routing. For some locators, figuring out a route can be a major headache and another stress on their day. Routing can save time and money by figuring out the most efficient and optimized travel plan for your locators. In addition, tags can be added to prioritize jobs or avoid certain areas. Not every locator needs this as they can build up local knowledge or have good instincts, but it's

worth trying and looking at the data. If it saves time and money, then that is a win-win.

The pressure on locators is immense, with ticket demand growing year-after-year and safety expectations increasing, too. Getting locate tickets in the hands of locators fast means they have more time to make better decisions. A few of the solutions we've put in place for our customers to improve response times and communication include:

- Full One Call center integration
- Emergency notifications immediately triggering right to locators
- Emergency sirens for team leaders
- Text message notifications
- Minimizing discrepancies between the utility and locator
- Mapping information as the Utility mapped it, verbatim from the Utility
- Real-time collection of the maps
- High Profile pre-assessments
- Blocking the completion of a ticket based on certain criteria

Having automations like these in place makes it easier when emergencies happen and sets

out a pattern of excellence that will reverberate through your company.

When locators are in the field, they usually have their laptop and phone in their truck. Efficiencies can be found in adopting an easy-to-use locate ticket management system that has a simple user interface and easily accessible features. For example, there is technology that allows locators to text or call the excavator. This makes communication faster and enables logging of everything inside one system. Simple solutions like this may only save a few seconds on every locate ticket completed, but over the course of a year and a few thousand tickets, that can add up to a lot of time saved.

In conclusion, leveraging your ticket management system to make informed decisions, implement efficiencies and improve results will speed up your locates, reduce stress on your team, and improve accuracy. The increasing demands on locators can be met by using existing technologies or adopting new ones. Reducing damages and improving upon key metrics like completion times can only happen if we use technology to improve efficiencies. **DP**

480K+ EXCAVATORS

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pipelineawareness.org



SCAN ME



Pipeline Association
for Public Awareness



The Infrastructure Boom is Upon Us. Are You Ready?

February 14-16, 2023



The US Infrastructure Bill and the pending boom in infrastructure construction mean damage prevention and excavation safety are more important than ever before. Join an 18-year tradition of educational excellence at the Excavation Safety Conference 2023 in Tampa, Florida – What you learn will save your company money and could save lives.

Need approval to attend? Download a draft letter outlining the benefits of attending Global ESC 2023:





Global ESC: Built For You, By You.

Why Attend Global ESC? A Long Tradition of Saving Lives Through Education

Since 2004, The Excavation Safety Conference has been the premier international event dedicated to providing educational content and resources to help protect buried assets, our workers, and our communities. The Conference, owned and produced by Infrastructure Resources, LLC, is the largest international event in the underground damage prevention industry, drawing attendees and exhibitors from around the world with 80+ hours of educational content and unmatched opportunities to collaborate with every stakeholder group.

Whether you have attended every Conference for the past 18 years, or this if your first time, there are sessions, summits, and connections to be made. There are numerous opportunities to learn new information directly related to your industry, expand your knowledge into a related field, network with peers who understand your job functions and share ideas with dedicated professionals.

Unmatched Networking Opportunities

Global ESC is attended by decision makers and thought leaders in their respective industries. Whether you are dedicating time to attending scheduled networking events, participating in events outside the convention center, or just meeting with important people on your way between education sessions, this event surrounds you with opportunities to connect.

- **Courtyards** – Take advantage of casual seating areas scattered throughout the exhibit hall to gather with peers and network while you're on the floor.
- **Outdoor Demo Fair & Picnic Lunch** – Thursday, enjoy your lunch in the Tampa sun as you explore exhibitor equipment displays and demonstrations.
- **The Wednesday Night Event** – The social highlight of the week, take an evening stroll to Splitsville Southern + Social on Downtown Tampa's waterfront for the Wednesday Night Event! There you'll find food, cocktails, awards, and a celebration of Tampa's swashbuckling history. On top of all that PelicanCorp will be giving away a trip for two to Australia to cap off the evening of fun.
- **Tuesday Night Welcome Reception** - The event kicks

off with a welcome reception in the exhibit hall from 4:00-6:00PM Tuesday. Great appetizers, cash bars, provide the perfect environment to connect with old friends, make new connections, and talk to exhibitors about the latest technology and services in the industry.

- **Click Before You Dig Golf Scramble** - Join industry friends from around the world at this golf scramble Friday morning.

The Best Education Available, On and Off the Exhibit Floor

The Conference is the perfect place to learn about the newest trends and technologies in the industry. Every year, exhibitors premier new products, services, and technologies that make your job easier. Spending time on the exhibit floor is a great way to increase your knowledge on industry advancements before anyone else. With the digging season starting soon after the Conference ends for most, you'll be in the perfect position to bring your team the equipment and knowledge needed to run at peak efficiency and effectiveness.





GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

Schedule of Events

Monday, February 13

- 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Registration
- 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Exhibitor Move-In

Tuesday, February 14

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm** Registration
- 8:00 am - 8:45 am** Attendee Orientation
- 8:30 am - 12:30 pm** **WORKSHOP:** What Will They Say About You? (additional fees apply)
- 8:00 am - 12:30 pm** **WORKSHOP:** Damage Investigation with an Expert Witness (additional fees apply)
- 8:00 am - 1:00 pm** Exhibitor Move-in
- 8:30 am - 3:30 pm** **WORKSHOP:** Utility Locator Skills Enhancement (additional fees apply)
- 9:00 am - 10:45 am** Education Open to All Badge Types/ Vendor Sessions
- 10:00 am - 1:30 pm** CAMO Lunch & Learn
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am** Conference Sessions
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm** Plenary Session
- 3:45 pm - 4:00 pm** Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Welcome Reception/Global Locate Masters Competition Kick-Off
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Exhibit Hours

Wednesday, February 15

- 8:00 am - 2:00 pm** Exhibit Floor Open
- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm** Registration
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am** Breakfast on the Expo Floor
- 9:30 am - 10:00 am** Education Open to All Badge Types
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am** Education Open to All Badge Types

- 10:30 am - 11:00 am** Education Open to All Badge Types
- 11:00 am - 11:30 am** Education Open to All Badge Types
- 11:00 am - 12:30 pm** Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** New Product Forum
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm** Conference Sessions
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm** Night of Networking at Splitsville

Thursday, February 16

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm** Registration
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm** Baggage Check
- 8:00 am - 11:00 am** Exhibit Hours
- 8:30 am - 9:00 am** Education Open to All Badge Types
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am** Breakfast with Exhibitors
- 9:00 am - 9:45 am** Conference Sessions
Pipeline Safety & Awareness Summit
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am** Education Open to All Badge Types
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am** Conference Sessions
- 11:00 am - 12:30 pm** ESA Town Hall: Open to All Badge Types
- 11:00 am - 6:00 pm** Exhibitor Move-Out
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm** Outdoor Demo/Picnic Lunch
- 1:30 pm - 2:15 pm** Conference Sessions
- 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm** Conference Sessions
- 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm** Conference Sessions

Friday, February 17

- 8:30 am - 12:30 pm** Click Before You Dig Golf Scramble





GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

Plan Your Trip to Tampa

Infrastructure Resources, LLC, the City of Tampa, and its hotel partners are looking forward to welcoming you back to the 2023 Global Excavation Safety Conference! Special rates have been arranged for the following hotels. *Click on the QR code to the right.*

BOOK NOW!



Hotels sell out early, so register and book your hotel now!

Embassy Suites Tampa – Downtown Convention Center

513 S Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602 • (813) 769-8300

Embassy Suites Tampa Downtown, located steps from the Tampa Riverwalk and Amalie Arena, is connected to the Tampa Convention Center. Featuring complimentary breakfast and cocktail hour, the renovated all-suite hotel includes a refreshing outdoor pool, TASTE restaurant and upscale meeting and event space.

Book by 1/08/23 to secure the lowest rate!



Marriott Water Street Tampa

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602 • (813) 221-4900

A redesigned waterfront hotel that sits adjacent to the convention center in Tampa's dynamic downtown just steps from the Tampa Riverwalk, Florida Aquarium, Amalie Arena and Sparkman Wharf.

Book by 1/20/23 to secure the lowest rate!

The Westin Tampa Bay

The Westin Tampa Bay Westin Tampa Bay is located on Rocky Point Island, just minutes from downtown Tampa, the Westshore business district, a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment venues, and a short drive to Florida's award-winning beaches. Whether you're just arriving or headed for your next destination, the Tampa International Airport is a quick 3 miles away.

Book by 1/11/23 to secure the lowest rate!





GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

Education that Leads to Change



“ The 2022 Global ESC provided strong results from numerous educational offerings and attendance by leading damage prevention decision makers. Exceeded expectations - very pleased to have attended.” Mark Bruce, Hydromax USA

Educational sessions are offered by professional speakers and industry experts who share their time and experience to increase industry knowledge on damage prevention, excavation safety, public awareness, and other related topics. In addition, interactive industry-focused summits impanel industry leaders to address major issues and explore potential solutions. Conference registration required to participate in all education sessions and summits.

Education Session Endorsers

We thank these organizations for their collaborative efforts in developing content for their respective industries.



Sessions

Global ESC attracts the best speakers and subject matter experts in the industry. Each year's sessions are chosen with an eye for subject diversity, topicality, and attendee feedback. Here are a few of the over 80 educational sessions being offered for all stakeholder groups. To see the steadily growing lists of sessions with full descriptions and presenter information go to GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com/education or use the QR code above. Sessions are subject to change.



- **1st Amendment Audits**
Jim Willis, In-Dev Tactical
- **Bedrock Mapping Study with GPR and Geospatial Mapping Techniques**
David Acosta, CSTi
Joey Gallegos, CSTi
John Gallegos, CSTi
- **Believe in Safety**
Brandon Schroeder, Believe in Safety, LLC

- **Buried Alive: A Survivor's Story**
Joe Tantarelli, Trinity Safety Consulting
- **Coastal & Marine Operators (CAMO) 101**
Ed Landgraf, CAMO / Texas 811
David Ferguson, Texas 811
- **Causes of Utility Damages in North Carolina: Direct Causes vs Root Causes**
Dr. Ahmed Al-Bayati, Lawrence Technical University
Louis Panzer, North Carolina 811
- **Creating a Uniform Ticket**
Sher Kirk, Utility Safety Partners
- **Critical Mass of Risk**
John Brix, Professional Speaker
- **Damage Happens – What Comes Next?**
Taylor Fudge, Claims Management Resources
Jonathan Musgrove, Claims Management Resources
- **De-Escalating Volatile Situations in the Field**
Jim Willis, In-Dev Tactical





Education that Focuses on Solutions

- **Discussing the Optimization of the Utility Consenting and Permitting Process**
Duane Rodgers, PelicanCorp
Jason Manning, PelicanCorp
- **Educating the Next Generation: Georgia 811's Digger Dog Program**
Maria Copeland, Georgia 811
- **Fiber builds with damage prevention as a high priority: A case study of effective partnerships**
George Kemp, MetroNet
- **GPR Technology in Support of Search and Rescue Operations for Victims in the Earthquake of September 19, 2017 in Mexico**
Alejandra Vera, INSET
- **How Can a Good BBS Observation and Feedback Help with Damage Prevention**
Joe Tantarelli, Trinity Safety Consulting
- **Improving Design Plans Through Mobile Mapping**
Michael Twohig, DGT Associates
- **Keeping Rural America Safe**
Whitney Price, PASA / Infrastructure Resources
- **Leading Women of Damage Prevention**
Ketha Molina, Texas811 / Jennifer Pratt, Damage Prevention Council of Texas
- **Leaving a Safety Legacy**
Wylie Davidson, Motivational Speaker
- **Leveraging Technology to Speed Up Locates**
Shane Hart, Competers, Inc.
- **Meet Buxus: Information the Way Emergency Responders Want (and Need It)**
Lindsay Sander, Sander Resources
Chief Jonathan Lamm, City of Cocoa, Florida
Michelle Cechowski, East Central Florida LEPC Staff
- **Natural Disasters and Damage Prevention – After the Disaster**
Shannon Neufeld, Canada Energy Regulator
- **Operationalizing Risk Scoring to Reduce Damages**
Jim Plasynski, KorTerra
- **Part 1: Power Line Safety Initiative**
Michelle Brannon, Power Line Safety Initiative
Stan Brannon, Power Line Safety Initiative
Glen "Cookie" Cook, Energy Queensland
- **Part 2: Look Up and Live**
Michelle Brannon, Power Line Safety Initiative
Stan Brannon, Power Line Safety Initiative
Glen "Cookie" Cook, Energy Queensland
- **Paying Attention Could Make All the Difference**
Jim Willis, In-Dev Tactical
- **Power of Don't: Communication and Leadership Excellence**
John Brix, Professional Speaker
- **Ready. Respond. Recover.**
Kelley Heinz, ComEd
- **RP1162 Update**
Sam Minifie, API
- **Strategies to Consider for Reducing Update Tickets**
Susan Bohl, OKIE811
- **The RAS System**
John Brix, Professional Speaker
- **Two Confined Space Standards - Which one is for you?**
Bruce Magee, United Rentals
- **Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?**
Chad Shannon, MEA
Kelsey Tweed, PAPA
Whitney Price, PASA
- **You the Jury: Trial of an Underground Utility Damage Claim**
James Prozek, Hall Estill
Anthony Jorgenson, Hall Estill
Rich Nelson, Zayo Communications
- **What Will They Say About You?**
Wylie Davidson, Motivational Speaker



GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

Education for every stakeholder group

Global ESC Summits

Panels are being formed now! Keep up to date at GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

Electric Safety Summit

Sponsored by



Moderator: Cliff Meidl Enterprises, LLC
Panelist: Glen "Cookie" Cook, Energy Queensland

Fiber Optic Asset Protection Summit

Sponsored by



Moderator: Christopher McDermott, AT&T
Panelist: Andrea Stainback, Lumen
George Kemp, MetroNet

Notification Center Summit

Sponsored by



Moderator: Bruce Campbell, MISS DIG 811 / FNCA

Water & Sewer Infrastructure Protection Summit

Sponsored by



Panelist: Jay Hemley, City of Tacoma

Pipeline Safety & Awareness Summit

Sponsored by



Moderator: Kesley Tweed, PAPA
Panelist: Jim Francis, ENTRUST Solutions

Excavator Perspective Summit

Moderator: Jerry Hoover, Badger Daylighting

Global Locate Summit

Sponsored by



Sponsored by



Moderator: Ron Peterson, Ron Peterson Consulting
Panelist: Randy Bern, Vannguard Utility Partners, Inc.
Hannibal Dennis, Vannguard Utility Partners, Inc.

ESA Town Hall: LIVE Edition

EXCAVATION SAFETY ALLIANCES' MONTHLY MEETING GOES ANALOG



Global ESC 2023 is set to host the first ever LIVE Excavation Safety Alliance (ESA) Town Hall! ESA Town Halls, hosted online at ExcavationSafetyAlliance.com since April 2022, have attracted hundreds of monthly attendees. Topics have ranged from late locates to The Infrastructure Bill, with panelists and attendees representing every stakeholder group. A live version of the popular Town Hall format, with a moderator and panelists from a variety of industries, will debut at Global ESC 2023. ESA Town Halls are driven by the knowledge of the panelists and the passion of the attendees. For that reason, the Global ESC audience was the perfect match.

Catch up on Previous Town Halls, Like 'Late Locates'!

Every past Town Hall recording is available in-full to all ESA members. Create a free ESA account at ExcavationSafetyAlliance.com or use the QR code below.

LATE LOCATES: PARTNERING WITH NOTIFICATION CENTERS





Workshops & Global Locate Masters



Damage Investigation with an Expert Witness w/ Ron Peterson (\$255)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Damages to underground assets occur regularly. Every company needs a policy ensuring everyone in the field can properly conduct a field incident investigation, in a timely manner, for cost recovery. As an expert witness, Ron Peterson will focus on the required elements of a successful damage investigation, by helping you set the stage to determining a valid root cause investigation by following standard investigative procedures vital to an effective analysis of damage. Learn how to protect your company through proper documentation of damage incidents through photographic, interview, and investigative procedures. Ron will break the individual components of a quality root cause investigation into easily digestible segments. *Pre-registration is required. Box lunch is not included.*

Utility Locator Skills Enhancement w/ Bob Nighswonger (\$395)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM EST

Not only is this skills training workshop a great introductory session and a valuable career-building tool for the novice locator, the workshop was designed to challenge and expand the knowledge base of even the most seasoned of pros on the art of underground line locating and marking.

This two-fold training workshop begins with a live classroom training session with comprehensive animated slide presentations, lively discussions, and a supporting workbook loaded with reference materials and classroom activities. The classroom session is followed by hands-on instruction performed outdoors where a variety of conventional and not-so-conventional equipment is placed in the hands of the workshop participants.

This workshop is approved for 6-8 Continuing Educational Hours or Training Credits for Water Operator Certification renewals in California, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

The workshop is approved for 8 contact hours for CWEA certificate holders for credit toward the continuing education requirement for re-certification. Pre-registration is required. Box lunch included in cost.



What Will They Say About You? w/ Wylie Davidson & Amy Davis (\$255)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Dig deeper into exploring the core values of how to effectively leave a lasting legacy. Leaving a legacy is something we all have in common, good or bad, and it's how we use the tools provided for us that allow us the ability to rise or fall. *Pre-registration is required. Box lunch is not included.*

Global Locate Masters

Enter the second annual Global Locate Masters! This unique competition tests the abilities of top locate technicians from around the world using UTTO's VR simulators. These simulators create complex locate experiences in an immersive environment that challenge a technician's training, skill, experience, and the attention to detail required for a successful locate.

This unique competition takes place on the Global ESC 2023 Expo floor and allows technicians the unprecedented opportunity to showcase their skills in front of a live audience of peers and industry leaders. The competition recognizes, rewards, and shines a spotlight on the world's best utility locating professionals by putting on display the years of experience, critical thinking, and mental agility each competitor brings to complete quality locates in a timely manner.



Pat Bellacero of Mule Services, 2022 GLM Champion



Interested in exhibiting at Global ESC 2023?
 Contact Vicki Husome at vicki@ir-savinglives.com

Exhibiting at Global ESC

Global ESC attendees come from all stakeholder groups, but they have two critical things in common: They care deeply about saving lives, and they have the motivation and power to effect change in their organizations.

Why Exhibit?

Be a Part of a Tradition 18 Years in the Making.

The damage prevention and excavation safety industry is constantly evolving and improving. Take advantage of three days of Exhibit Hall access to generate new leads and stay connected with decision makers and influencers from around the world. The largest event of its kind, Global ESC is the place to showcase your company, products and services through an expo booth or by participating in exhibitor education opportunities.

Exhibitor Opportunities

Vendor Outreach Sessions

Presented by vendors, these 45-minute sessions showcase the solutions and services our exhibitors and sponsors offer the damage prevention community.

30-Minute Tech Talks

Held in exhibit hall courtyards during expo hours, these 30-minute sessions allow exhibitors to have interactive discussions with attendees.

New Product Forum

Designed to give damage prevention stakeholders an introduction to the latest equipment and technology, the New Product Forum is presented in a rapid-fire format that offers a look at new products and services released within the past year.

“Prospects were perfect for our target audience and very beneficial to business growth and brand recognition. The Global ESC also offers fantastic sessions with a lot of relevant and important industry information. The Global ESC team went out of their way to accommodate both exhibitors and attendees. It was well worth the time and investment!”



Kathy Marston, Rhino Marking & Protection Systems

Exhibiting Booth Pricing			GLOBAL Excavation SAFETY CONFERENCE
	10' X 10'	\$3,300	Two (2) Staff Badges
	10' X 20'	\$5,900	Four (4) Staff Badges
	10' X 30'	\$8,100	Six (6) Staff Badges
	10' X 40'	\$10,200	Six (6) Staff Badges
	20' X 20'	\$10,200	Six (6) Staff Badges
	20' X 30'	\$13,000	Six (6) Staff Badges
	20' X 40'	\$16,000	Eight (8) Staff Badges

Premium Locations

Corner +\$200

Island +\$400

2023 Exhibitors





Interested in a Sponsorship at Global ESC 2023?
Contact Vicki Husome at vicki@ir-savinglives.com

Global ESC Sponsors

Excavation Safety Conference sponsors support the continued success of a tradition 18 years in the making — A tradition that continues to provide unparalleled education opportunities to the industry.

Global ESC 2023 Sponsors

Damage Prevention Theater:



Session Notebooks:



Courtyards:



Official Event Bag:



Industry Summits:



Locator Skills Workshop Refreshments:



Damage Investigation Workshop Refreshments:



Available Sponsorships - Highlights

The Global ESC 2023 Mobile App

The official Global ESC 2023 app is the best way for attendees to access session information, surveys, speaker details, and digital networking. Needless to say, it's going to be used frequently. Sponsoring the mobile app places your logo in a rotating banner on the home page visible to attendees every time they open the app.

Registration (only one available!)

One of the most effective sponsorship opportunities available, sponsoring registration puts your company at the center of all conference promotion and registration messaging. Plus, every participant at the Global Excavation Safety Conference wears a badge to gain access to the many activities held during the event. Promote your logo by providing lanyards distributed with the badges.

Contact Vicki Husome at Vicki@IR-SavingLives.com to secure sponsorships.

Exclusive Networking Sponsor – Be a part of lasting memories!

Don't miss your chance to connect your company's name with the social event of the Conference. All Conference and Exhibitor badges include entry into this "can't-miss" party including unique drinks, excellent music, delicious food and great company! Sponsor logo associated with all references to Networking Event, print and digital.

Event Program

The Event Program is distributed to all participants upon registration and includes all activities and events happening during Global Excavation Safety Conference. Your FULL-PAGE advertisement in the event program draws attention to your products or services to all event participants.

Session Breaks

Learning is hard work! With the sheer amount of education and discussions taking place, it's only right that Conference delegates are given a break on occasion. Be a bastion of relief by providing attendees with refreshments during afternoon session breaks.

Join the Excavation Safety Alliance: Nearly 1,000 Members Strong



The Excavation Safety Alliance (ESA) is the place in the industry where solutions to industry problems are developed, with no bias towards any stakeholder group. ESA Town Halls are a virtual, open forum for all stakeholders to discuss concerns and present potential solutions. To date, the ESA Town Halls have featured panelists from the following organizations representing a wide variety of industry stakeholder groups committed to damage prevention and excavation safety.

- 3M
- 4Sight Utility Engineers
- American Petroleum Institute (API)
- AXA XL
- Badger Daylighting
- Bigman Geophysical
- Coastal And Marine Operators (CAMO)
- Canada Energy Regulator
- CenterPoint Energy
- Chevron
- Cliff Meidl Enterprises, LLC
- Colorado 811
- ComEd
- Corby Energy Services
- Cottrell Contracting Corporation
- Council for Dredging and Marine Construction Safety (CDMCS)
- ELM Utility Services
- Energy Queensland
- Energy Worldnet, Inc.
- FirstEnergy
- Georgia 811
- Gopher State One Call
- Greiner Construction
- Hall Estill
- INSET
- Iowa State University
- JULIE, Inc.
- KorTerra
- MetroNet, Inc.
- Minger Construction Co., Inc.
- MISS DIG 811
- Mitchell Engineering
- North Carolina 811
- NUCA of Pennsylvania
- NULCA
- Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc. / OKIE 811
- Pipeline Association for Public Awareness (PAPA)
- Ritter Communications
- Subsurface Utility Engineering, LLC
- Texas 811
- Utility Safety Partners
- Vanguard Utility Partners, Inc.
- WGI, Inc.
- Xcel Energy
- Youngs Excavating, Inc.

ESA Town Halls are changing the way the damage prevention industry shares ideas and collaborates on solutions. Bring your unique perspective to the conversation and help shape the future. ESA Town Halls occur on the second Thursday of every month at 10:30 AM CST.

Have topic suggestions for a future Town Hall?

Contact Scott@IR-SavingLives.com or Karin@IR-SavingLives.com

ESA is owned by Infrastructure Resources, LLC (IR). Learn more about IR, its initiatives, programs, and events at IR-SavingLives.com

94.3%

OF ATTENDEES FIND
VALUE IN ATTENDING
ESA TOWN HALLS

“Thank you, this was good stuff and [I] love the collaborative approach!”
- Donna J. Williams, Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.

“Are any of you guys willing to talk to me about damage prevention until I go to sleep tonight... LOVE this conversation! I really enjoyed listening to you guys!”
- Raymond Sonnier, Atmos Energy

**Become an Excavation
Safety Alliance Member
for FREE in just seconds!**



ESA TOWN HALLS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED!

Every past Town Hall video recording is available in-full to all ESA members. Town Halls are also available in podcast form on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or at ExcavationSafetyAlliance.com to listen to at your convenience.

SEPTEMBER *What are the best practices for preventing damage to electric cables above and below ground?*



Mike Sullivan
Utility Safety Partners



Glen "Cookie" Cook
Energy Queensland



Kelley Heinz
ComEd



Sher Kirk
Utility Safety Partners



Cliff Meidl
Cliff Meidl Enterprises, LLC

OCTOBER *What role can Utility Coordinating Councils play in damage prevention and excavation safety?*



Ann Rushing
North Carolina 811



Becky Kinsey
Georgia 811



Marty Mead
Colorado 811



Chris Stermer
WGI, Inc.

NOVEMBER *What are the most successful ways to investigate a damage and defend yourself?*



Jim Proszek
Hall Estill



A.J. Clark
Badger Daylighting



Anthony Jorgenson
Jorgenson PLLC



Fred LeSage
AXA XL



Brian Tooley
Mitchell Engineering

DECEMBER: ESA TOWN HALL COMING SOON!

PHMSA and NTSB Recommendations for Tolerance Zones: Does one size fit all?



Ed Landgraf
Texas 811 & CAMO



Devon Carlock
Cottrell Contracting
& CDMCS



Sam Minifie
American Petroleum
Institute (API)



Pascual "Paco" Alvarez
Chevron



**REGISTER
TODAY!**

CGA's Next Practices Initiative

BY FRED LESAGE

Legendary management consultant W. Edwards Deming once said, "A system must be managed. It will not manage itself. Left to themselves, components become selfish, competitive, independent profit centers, and thus destroy the system." And the 811 system is a system like any other in that regard.

In February 2021, Common Ground Alliance's Next Practices Initiative produced its Report to the Industry. The report has some really interesting ideas for the future but also seems mired in the past in some ways. The report included what CGA calls its three Key Findings:

1. Facilities not marked accurately and on time

The Next Practices committee did some good research on this with a survey of locate technicians that produced some instructive results. Essentially, the techs tell us they are pressured by the area to be marked not being clearly defined, incorrect information provided by excavators and a heavy workload. Locator supervisors say variability and inefficiencies in dig ticket processes make it difficult to staff effectively to meet workloads. Together these issues create pressures that impact safety.

The committee's research then went further, identifying four factors that drive the locator challenges:

- **Increased volume of locates**
- **One Call transmissions rising despite construction spending staying flat**
- **Excavator reduced confidence in timeliness of locates resulting in "over-notification"- earlier than necessary 811 calls to ensure that they can dig according to their project schedule**
- **Locating contracts that are structured around ticket volume rather than safety outcomes**

I think the committee's conclusions are correct. Increased volume of locates and heavy locator workloads? What did you expect? Every 811-system operator in the country has been advertising for years to "Call 811 Before You Dig." Apparently, the advertising has worked to the point that it has created consumer demand beyond what the service providers can accommodate. I guess that could be part of it.

In reality, it's about the system and how it has been used and abused by its multiple stakeholders each trying to find an "angle" that lets them meet the



requirements of the law at the lowest cost with the least interference in their own operations. The public utilities for the most part, long ago, farmed out their legally mandated locating responsibilities to subcontracted locators. They typically subcontract the work to the lowest bidder and often pay them based on ticket volume. Subcontracting the locating has the added benefit for utilities of having someone else to blame if a locate is late or an inaccurate locate results in a damage case. The contract locators are out there clearing dig tickets as fast as they can with technicians paid the lowest wage possible that will get employees in the door while allowing them to remain the lowest bidder for public utility contracts. And excavators constantly call in as many dig tickets as they can manage to make sure they can keep their crews and equipment moving each day. Oh, and let's not forget that just as locators are often paid by the ticket, excavators are frequently paid by the foot of fiber, wire or pipe that they install.

Doesn't that current state of affairs look an awful lot like what Dr. Deming described as what happens in an unmanaged system? Each stakeholder is doing its best to maximize its own outcome.

2. Excavator errors in the field

I'm sorry, but this "Key Finding" is not very instructive, is it? What does that even mean? It's kind of a catch-all that doesn't tell us what needs to be fixed. CGA's Dirt Report says excavators "failing to maintain clearance after verifying marks" is the second most common source of damage. That's one kind of excavator error, but clearly there must be others.

One more point here is that while excavator errors were the second most common source of damage, the Dirt Report's most cited cause was "failure to notify" – cases where nobody called 811. So, if I have this right, we have too many 811 calls to handle but the main cause of damage is not enough 811 calls? Maybe there's some rethinking needed here?

3. Effective and consistent use of 811

Perhaps a more appropriate description would be "Ineffective and inconsistent use of 811." Unlike their description of excavator errors, the committee gave us some specifics here:

- **Locators are not receiving all available information necessary to efficiently locate/mark facilities**
- **Excavators are often waiting for a site to be marked beyond the required wait time**
- **Locators are required to respond to a variable workload with a fixed solution**
- **Excavators have no disincentive to request multiple locates in order to begin a project on time**

That first bullet is a good one and it actually has two parts. Excavators often don't white line or provide specific areas that need to be located. I've seen that firsthand at my home where the locators came out to mark my entire lot because a contractor didn't tell them that they were only going to be putting in a backyard fence. That seems fixable. The second part is that utility owners don't provide accurate maps. That's not as easily fixable because often utility maps aren't created with the locator in mind. They don't always portray the physical location of the line, but rather provide information the utility operator needs like system connections and age and type of buried assets.

That last bullet though, is the committee saying excavators shouldn't do whatever works to get their work started on time? It's not that there's no disincentive to request multiple locates, it's that there IS an incentive to do it. They've learned that more requests mean they're more likely to get their locate done on time. And those "paid by the ticket" locators must love getting paid to clear multiple tickets with a single locate.

The Next Practices committee's report then prescribed what it calls Opportunities for Systemic Improvement with Greatest ROI Potential. These four Opportunities for Systemic Improvement look interesting and some of them reflect the explosion of new technology in the underground locating and mapping world:

- **Increase implementation of electronic white-lining**
- **Pursue a GIS-based mapping system/database**
- **Utilize technology/software to account for variability in demand (for locates and across the damage prevention process)**
- **Contractually incentivize adherence to Best Practices and address incidents via effective enforcement mechanisms**

Increasing the use of electronic white-lining is a good idea. If a project manager can white line his site from his desktop or tablet, I think he's more likely to do it. Of course, we may not yet have the technology in place to effectively communicate those virtual white lines to the locator, so that might mean more work and more technology investment for somebody... but who? The work and investments mean real dollars spent by somebody and unless mandated by law, who will volunteer to pay those costs?

Pursuing GIS-based mapping is an excellent idea. Since utilities often don't have accurate maps of the physical locations of their facilities, someone will have to pay for the technology needed to create, store, edit and distribute mapped data. A few states have started down this road with requirements to GIS locate any new installations, but what about all the stuff that's already in the ground? It'll be decades before most of it is replaced and theoretically added to the proposed GIS systems.

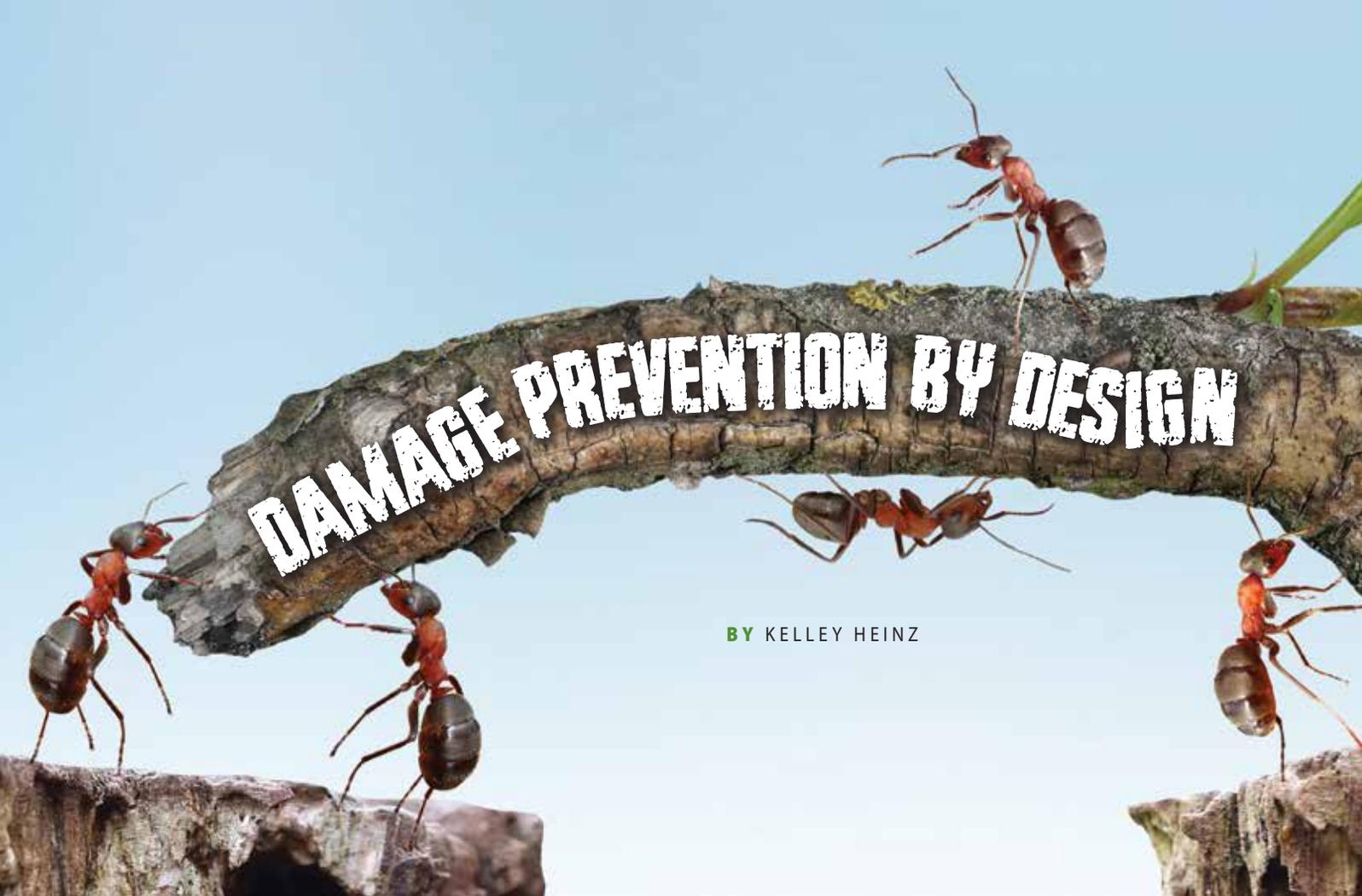
Using technology/software to account for variability in demand is a fine idea if somebody invents it. And if it works, you won't have to include it in any law, regulation, or even Best Practice document. Contract locators especially are always looking for ways to improve their efficiency to make themselves more profitable. They'll beat down the doors of the software provider to get the tool if it works.

Using contractual incentives and enforcement mechanisms to drive adherence to best practices might be counterproductive. Frankly, there are significant incentives already in place. If an excavator hits a buried facility, he already pays plenty in lost time for workers and equipment, investigations, damage costs and increased insurance premiums. He might even pay a fine if he's operating outside the law. Prescribing best practices is fine, but how you measure whether they've been adhered to can be complicated. It's often a matter of opinion and you could be creating additional grounds for disputes between utility companies, excavators, locators, and regulators.

CGA's ideas about increasing the use of technology are outstanding. They really describe steps forward for damage prevention. But I think the idea that these technologies can be retrofitted into the existing system of damage prevention, which was built to comply with current laws is flawed. It's like saying we're going to do things a new way while we keep doing them the old way. I think the issues the committee describes in their Key Findings are what the system created by 811 law and regulation have wrought. What we need to do is reinvent that system by taking advantage of all we've learned since we started down the damage prevention highway 50 some years ago. To do that, we need to incentivize all the stakeholders because right now the incentives are all driving selfish, competitive, independent profit centers as Dr. Deming described. **DP**

Fred LeSage has been a Senior Construction Risk Engineer with AXA XL Insurance since 2011. He assists contractors in the implementation of utility damage prevention techniques. He currently advises AXA XL's Ecosystem team on damage prevention technologies. Fred can be reached at Fred.LeSage@axaxl.com.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR. DP-PRO WELCOMES AND ENCOURAGES ARTICLES AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW.

A photograph of several ants working together to build a bridge over a gap in a log. The ants are red and black, and the log is dark brown. The title "DAMAGE PREVENTION BY DESIGN" is written in white, distressed, uppercase letters across the top of the log bridge.

DAMAGE PREVENTION BY DESIGN

BY KELLEY HEINZ

A few weeks ago, I was reminded of a story that I read as a child titled “The Ants and the Grasshopper.” The short of the story is that the ants worked hard storing food and preparing for winter while the grasshopper waited until it was too late and was ill prepared for the long and barren winter that laid ahead. You may ask yourself what a child’s fable has to do with our work in damage prevention, and I would remind you that the moral of the story was to work now for what you need in the future. In other words, prepare upfront for what you’ll need later. I believe it’s this important tip that can help prevent damages by being prepared with the knowledge of what might conflict with your project.

While each state’s One Call may differ in what they offer, many if not all states provide a Design Stage Locate. The Design Stage Locate request requires all member companies with facilities within the specified area to provide maps showing the approximate geographic location of their utility. The purpose of the Design Stage Locate request is for architects, engineers and others who are in the design or planning stage of a project to determine what existing infrastructure may be present at the location where they are planning additional infrastructure or other networks. These are requests where excavation will not take place in the immediate future so there is no real burden on the locators in the field to put down paint during the design stage unless pre-coordinated with the utility. The benefit of getting a Design Stage Locate request is that you give yourself the information necessary during the planning stage to reduce or eliminate any surprises during the execution phase of the project. We’ve all had projects that were delayed during excavation because utilities were in the way. Having the knowledge of existing facilities upfront at the engineering stage provides an opportunity to have the facilities moved ahead of time or to change or design the project around the existing infrastructure.

Planning for a successful job is more than calling in a locate and going out and completing the work. Also, keep in mind that not all jobs require this type of upfront planning. You shouldn’t need a Design Stage Locate request to plant a tree or set a stop sign. However,

with a new utility, it would be super beneficial to have an idea of what’s currently in the ground before you start your design. Remember that private facilities are not members of the One Call and it’s important to work with the municipality, property manager or resident engineer for your project to identify all privately owned facilities like sewer and water laterals and private lighting, amongst others. Understanding the existing field conditions can help the job run smoother, on time and on budget.

We should also remember that planning ahead doesn’t always lead to a successful and event-free job. Once the design is completed, the mapping information should then be passed down from the engineer or designer to the foreman and crew in the field before the first shovel is put into the ground. By scheduling a Joint Meet and meeting with all member companies prior to the start of excavation, a review and comparison of the maps with all involved parties could help show what would be expected to be marked in the field. When the excavation crew has the opportunity to review the maps for the gas company prior to their work, it’s easier to confirm that at least what is on the map, is marked on the job site and any deviations can be identified. During the jobsite walkdown, if the crew finds a gas main on the map that’s not marked in



the field, it's an opportunity for a phone call to be made to verify if the main was abandoned or should have, in fact, been marked. Knowing this upfront could help save lives. Insightful information such as this also saves time, prevents damages, and reduces costly utility repair and third-party damage claims.

Recognize that maps of existing infrastructure in the wrong hands could also lead to bigger problems. You should always check with your regulatory and compliance as well as cyber and corporate security teams to ensure that the information being provided doesn't violate any existing laws or requirements about sharing facility information or locations. It should also be understood that the maps provided are only for the situation in which they were requested. Printed or shared maps cannot depict future situations 10 years, 10 months or sometimes, even 10 weeks out. Utility companies are constantly changing the landscape and facilities are abandoned and installed every day. It's important to reach out for current maps and ensure that the process for requesting locates is followed and confirmed prior to excavation. Another opportunity for upfront information is through a subsurface utility or ground penetrating radar survey of the site to help identify any unmapped or additional unidentified obstacles.

The Design Stage Locate request, while beneficial in designing and executing our projects, should not take the place of face-to-face communication on the job site. The process of sharing maps helps initiate open communication and should always be followed up with a Joint Meet prior to excavation, followed by regular meets during the course of long, extended and/or complicated projects. Keeping the lines of communication open helps the excavator to understand what's present and allows the locator to communicate any changes or special instructions needed to safely excavate around facilities. Incorporating the process of gathering information upfront during the design stage and opening the lines of communication can help keep the project online, under budget and most importantly, safe and damage free. **DP**

Kelley Heinz is a Senior Claims Case Manager and Damage Prevention for ComEd with 25 years of experience in the industry. Kelley also sits on the JULIE Board of Directors and is an Enforcement Panel Member for 811Chicago. She can be reached at kelley.heinz@comed.com.



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RISK

BY STEVEN M. RIENKS, P.E., PMP &
JAMES H. ANSPACH, P.G.

The Benefits of a Rigorous Utility Investigation for Project Development

There are several risks that might prevent a project from being completed in a safe manner, on time and within the construction budget. These risks typically include permits, right-of-way acquisitions, unsecured construction easements, unexpected or changing site conditions, and utility conflicts and protection. This article will emphasize a way to mitigate the risks associated with utility conflicts and protection.

Proper utility identification during design and included as part of the bid package can facilitate projects being constructed safely, on time, within the construction budget and with minimal disruptions to the services provided by the utility companies. ASCE has published two separate standards regarding utilities to assist in project delivery. *ASCE/CI/UESI 38-22 Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities* is an update to the 38-02 standard reflecting the updated changes in practice, technologies, and research for detecting/documenting the uncertainties of locations of underground utilities and other infrastructure. *ASCE/CI/UESI 75 Standard Guideline for Recording and Exchanging Utility Infrastructure Data* establishes minimum, optional, and conditional elements of spatial and nonspatial attribute data associated with utility infrastructure. The standard guideline also provides recommendations for effective practices to facilitate data exchange among project stakeholders. It is essentially a “how to specify the creation of a utility certified record drawing” so that individual utility owners’ facilities and project utilities have standardization rather than literally hundreds of differing formats and accuracies and amounts of details about the new or relocated utilities within a project’s limits. The guideline is critical to capture, document, and exchange utility data for project scoping, planning, design, construction, operation, and long-term management of utility systems as well as the management of public right-of-way and properties throughout which utility infrastructure are installed. It is also beneficial to facilitate the interaction among stakeholders for managing utility and other civil infrastructure.

Although each project is different and warrants its own procedures, there are some common practices that lead to an efficient useful investigation that provides data in time for the designers to use it effectively. The first practice is to collect utility information as early as possible in project development. Early decisions such as line and grade, deep versus shallow drainage systems, siting of bridge foundations or structure footings, right-of-way requirements, and more are expensive to redo or change if a utility requiring a long lead time or high cost for relocation is discovered late in the process. Since it is well established that utility records are many times incorrect, difficult to obtain, or unavailable, comprehensive geophysics are typically applied within the project footprint, and the results of the geophysics synthesized with existing records and visual evidence. Communicating these data to individual task designers along with ramifications of cost and schedule implications if conflicts cannot be avoided fosters good design decisions.

How to synthesize and display the geophysical, visual, and record data is described in ASCE 38-22. Utilities within a project’s limits are not static; new ones are added, the project may relocate some early, and there may be other changes. A mechanism to keep the utility data current throughout project development is an essential practice. As new data is added to the project, communication of those changes to the task designers becomes important. Hence, fees and lines of communication for this service must be established. Geophysics, visual evidence and records are uncertain and require professional judgment. If a potential conflict is identified between the utility data and the design, exposure and accurate measurements of what is discovered in the excavation should be made. These results may change the judgments of the previous work, so provisions should be made to update this data so that the snapshot in time is as reliable as possible. So, the process of investigating and documenting existing utilities on a project is iterative and requires continual communication between the project parties.

Utility coordination typically includes these tasks: utility conflict identification; meeting set-up and management between design consultants, utility owners, and permit agencies; determination of prior rights; sequencing of utility construction; relocation routing; relocation design; salvage value;

utility plans and estimates review and approvals; determination of and securing of required utility easements and temporary construction easements; scheduling; writing special provisions; agreement development; securing policy exceptions; developing design alternatives, costs, time versus utility relocation; and performing municipal water and sewer design. (*Note that this is a non-comprehensive list.*)

This process involves the utility owner early in the project which is sometimes a challenge/difficult. Preventing Damages - Cost Benefit Not Widely Known or Shared in the A/E/C industry is the budget for a complete SUE investigation. The industry standard is 0.5% to 2% of the construction value. Breaking this down further, assume 0.5% to 1% for rural projects and 1% to 2% for urban projects. These numbers are for budgeting purposes and might have to be doubled given the individual nature of each and every project. Let us encourage our fellow A/E/C professionals, clients, and utility owners that a complete SUE investigation, QL B (which will likely contain QL C and QL D depictions) and QL A test holes, if needed, be performed as part of the engineering plans that are advertised for bid or negotiated for bid and can be shared with the applicable utility owners. We feel that utility identification at this stage of planning and design development helps to prevent utility damages and service disruptions to the utility companies and their customers.

With this process, the utility locators responding to the excavation tickets during the construction phase will have the best available information to ensure that what they identify on the ground is the same as what’s shown on the final construction plans. If not, then the contractor is not to proceed until a resolution has been agreed to by the various stakeholders. This proposed method will not eliminate risk, but it can go a long way to minimizing the risks in a potentially dangerous business. What happens if a complete SUE investigation is not performed? The contractor files a claim for delay, and the cost of the delay might be more than the consultant’s fee. Nonetheless for the consultant, there is the potential loss of goodwill and reputation with the client. You might remember the old Fram oil filter commercial, “You can pay me more now, or you can pay me more later?” But today we might add, “Either way, you are going to pay more!” The question that the consultant or client and/or utility owner needs to ask themselves is, “Which dollars are cheaper, today’s or tomorrow’s?” 

The Pipeline Task Force (PTF), a subset of The Council for Dredging & Marine Construction Safety (CDMCS) and Coastal and Marine Operators (CAMO), is a joint inter-agency, public-private initiative focused on ensuring safe operations in waterways with submerged oil and natural gas pipelines through enhanced communications, collaboration, and exchange of best practices among all stakeholders. Preventing loss of life, injury, environmental pollution, and destruction of assets is their mandate and focus.

The PTF working group consists of over 50 diverse participants representing the Army Corp of Engineers, dredge, marine construction, NTSB, Notification Centers, pipeline, PHMSA, and US Coast Guard sectors.

I began attending Pipeline Task Force (PTF) meetings believing our focus would be coastal states and large waterways. The biggest take-away has been a “waterway” is any water: stream, river, lake, ocean, marsh. Landlocked states should be just as engaged because if there are utilities below, a marine ticket should be created.

The September meeting saw break-out task teams formed to dive deeper into the key topics identified.

through shared GIS data so all parties have consistent information for a heightened level of safety.

Notification Centers, Damage Prevention for Underwater Excavation, Communications, and Planning

Create a standard marine environment / waterway ticket using language developed by utilities, marine operators, heavy constructors, and Notification Centers. Develop specialized personnel within each of those organizations to become well-versed in handling waterway tickets.



Enhanced Education and Training

Craft messaging to reinforce that assumptions for a location of a utility cannot be made. Are all involved in the project aware of all equipment used? Discuss utility hazards and responses to them, emergency and otherwise. Recognize there are multiple definitions for an Emergency Shut Down (ESD) and steps that may be taken so a consistent standard will help all involved. Provide training with the Notification Centers to detail how to utilize 811 while discussing what it is, and more importantly, what it isn't.

Modify Marine Tolerance Zone

Create state agency recommendations that may be standardized from state-to-state. While there is no guidance for Federal waterways, CDMCS recommends 75'. Work to increase engagement and communications between all parties which includes Emergency Shut Down (ESD) definitions and requirements. No initiative would be a success without training; the Tolerance Zone Committee hopes to conduct training between mariners and Notification Centers.

Mapping, Survey, and Marking

Engage the Coast Guard with mapping is imperative to partner for a better way. Determine the best technology available for survey while utilizing AIS for tracking and mapping. Share information

Communications, Project Design and Planning

Take a back-to-basics approach and begin the conversation at the beginning. Do people know what dredging equipment looks like? Do people understand their utilities may be impacted simply from the displacement of water? By focusing on front-end communications, they will work to involve the correct stakeholders.

The goal of the PTF is to expand each of these working groups to spur action through enhanced best practices, education, and training with the hope of being recognized as consistent national practices across the industry. 

To learn more about the Pipeline Task Force and Pipeline Safety, visit: www.camogroup.org or <https://cdmcs.org/pipeline-task-force>.

Educating the Next Generation: Georgia 811's Digger Dog Program

• MEGAN ESTES, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS •

GEORGIA 811 has been reaching out to the next generation of Georgians for over 15 years with our special safety ambassador, Digger Dog. Digger Dog and Education Administrator Maria Copeland travel throughout the state promoting the message of safe digging to second and third graders at both public and private elementary schools. Visiting around 8,000 students each year, this fun, interactive, and free program is designed to equip young Georgians with the tools and information needed to protect themselves in hazardous situations. Digger Dog shares with students information about safe digging, smelling gas and acting fast, and safety techniques to use around overhead electrical lines in a 35-minute energetic, informative, and life-saving presentation.



Teaching children about safety and damage prevention in a way that is fun and reaches them at their cognitive level has been a fruitful investment for us at Georgia 811. We witness retention of the safe digging messaging and are happy to contribute to that knowledge that stays with students as they grow up. Outside of the school programming, Digger also attends community events including annual meetings, festivals, and parades. Digger's largest annual event is Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade, where he is featured in Savannah Utility Coordinating Committee's float, engaging with a crowd of roughly 500,000 every year.



Scheduling and outreach techniques for the Digger Dog Program involve strategic marketing and planning. Some of the details of the program include:

- Georgia 811 contracts with a professional mascot company that ensures an exceptional delivery of Digger's character who is engaging, fun, and always professional.
- After each elementary school visit, students leave with Georgia 811 branded items and a workbook so that they can share the experience and messaging with their parents at home.
- Georgia 811 partners with member utility companies who often help schedule shows at local schools and will attend as community representatives.
- The Digger Dog Program features "Power Town," an interactive visualization of a neighborhood that demonstrates situations that can occur with damages to electrical and gas facilities. Georgia 811 worked with representatives from Georgia Power Company and Atlanta Gas Light on the creation of "Power Town", which was freely donated.

- Digger Dog shares information about his school and community visits on his DiggerDog811.com website, in press releases, and on social media to help extend the reach of the program.

Overall, Digger Dog and Maria Copeland provide a valuable resource for not only Georgia 811 but the community at large in educating young people throughout the state. Georgia 811 is happy to share resources, lessons learned, and more with others in the damage prevention community looking to increase their student outreach initiatives. Maria Copeland and Digger Dog are excited to demonstrate their presentation at the upcoming 2023 Excavation Safety Conference. Please contact Megan Estes at MEstes@Georgia811.com with questions. 



August 11, 2022, Brought Awareness of the Potential for Injuries, Property Damage and Outages if Underground Utilities are Damaged

• MARCI GARROTT, TEXAS811 MARKETING MANAGER •

ACCORDING TO the Texas Railroad Commission's Pipeline Damage Prevention program, "Texas has more miles of pipeline than any other state. In reports submitted to the Texas Railroad Commission in 2020, 27% of pipeline damages are done by people digging with hand tools, such as shovels."

Contacting 811 before digging is the easiest way to avoid damaging buried utilities. When calling 811, homeowners, DIYers, and contractors will connect to the local One Call center which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground utility lines with flags, spray paint or both.

For 811 Day, Texas811 developed community outreach efforts and public awareness campaigns with a focus on advertising the importance of calling 811 with messaging on podcasts, Amazon video ads, radio, and geofencing

campaigns. In addition, Texas811 was visible on YouTube, Nextdoor and various social media outlets.

John Sparks, Director of Damage Prevention and Public Awareness, stated: "It is critical for us to raise awareness for the service we provide. If we can prevent just one damage resulting in financial headache or even worse, injury or loss of life, then it is worth every ounce of effort put into it. I often feel like homeowners fail to realize just how much underground infrastructure is out there, and the varying depths in which those utilities might be located. So, opportunities like 811 Day provides a platform to heighten awareness and educate those who might have otherwise not known about what lies below." 

For more information on our marketing efforts, please reach out to CommunicationsTeam@Texas811.org.

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- Regulatory Agencies & Policy Makers
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- NASTT-NE Chapter Members
- Posted on www.nastt.org
- NASTT NO-DIG Show Gas Industry Day
- Northeast Gas Association Spring/Fall Operations Conferences
- Southern Gas Association
- American Gas Association Spring Conferences
- Western Regional Gas Association



JULIE Announces Damage Prevention Advocacy Awards

THE BOARD of Directors at JULIE, Inc. recently announced the winners of the first Gina Meehan-Taylor Damage Prevention Advocacy Awards. David Tidball, a damage prevention specialist for ComEd, and Rich Kuczowski, Jr., a superintendent for Nash Brothers Construction, were chosen for their dedication as advocates of damage prevention.

Chosen from a pool of nominations from throughout Illinois, Tidball was nominated by a peer at MetroNet for being one of the most proactive and responsive advocates for safety with a professional and positive attitude. Kuczowski was nominated by a co-worker and praised for his crews having zero at-fault damages while installing nearly 1,100 commercial and residential gas services.



Left to right: Mark Frost, JULIE Executive Director; David Tidball, ComEd; and Kevin Cavenaile, AT&T and JULIE Board President.

JULIE established this award in memory of Meehan-Taylor, a damage professional with Ameren Illinois. Nominations are sought from anyone within the industry including utility members, excavators, first responders, locators and others who embody Meehan-Taylor's passion for safety. **DP**

Left to right: JULIE Board Members Chuck Mueller and Kent Kowalski, both of Ameren Illinois; Rich Kuczowski, Jr., Nash Brothers Construction; Gerard Fouts, son of Gina Meehan-Taylor; Kevin Cavenaile, AT&T and JULIE Board President; and Mark Frost, JULIE Executive Director.

For more information on the award nomination process, visit JULIEBeforeYouDig.com.



ISE Expo 2022

ISE EXPO 2022 marked the 30th Anniversary of a long-standing educational resource within the telecom world. Held in Denver, ISE Expo 2022 provided educational sessions and a robust exhibit hall focused on the next

wave of innovative technologies and practices that will help transform ICT/telecom services. **DP**



Calendar of Events

January 2023

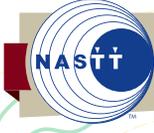
- 17-19 World of Concrete (Las Vegas, NV)
24-26 Louisiana Damage Prevention Summit (Baton Rouge, LA)
24-27 API / AGA Joint Committee on Pipeline Welding Practices (New Orleans, LA) (*American Petroleum Institute / American Gas Association*)
29 – Feb. 1 APGA Winter Board & Committee Meetings (Washington, DC) (*American Public Gas Association*)

February 2023

- 6-10 Pipeline Pigging and Integrity Management (Houston, TX)
7-9 DistribuTECH International (San Diego, CA)
7-9 ORCGA 2023 Conference (Windsor, ON) (*Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance*)
7-9 Underground Construction Technology (Orlando, FL)
7-10 SGA 2023 Technical Conference (Oklahoma City, OK) (*Southern Gas Association*)
7-11 The 75th Annual PLCA Convention (Koloa, HI) (*Pipeline Contractors Association*)
14-16 Global Excavation Safety Conference (Tampa, FL)
19-22 RTIME (San Diego, CA) (*Rural Broadband Association*)
20-22 Arkansas Damage Prevention Summit (Little Rock, AR)
20-25 DCA Convention (Miami, FL) (*Distribution Contractors Association*)

March 2023

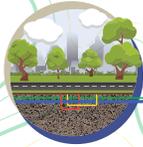
- 13 NUCA Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
14-18 ConExpo / ConAg (Las Vegas, NV)
19-23 NACE Corrosion 2023 (Denver, CO) (*National Association of Corrosion Engineers*)
28-31 WEF / AWWA Utility Management Conference 2023 (Sacramento, CA) (*Water Environment Federation / American Water Works Association*)
29-31 Tennessee Damage Prevention Summit (Franklin, TN) 



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The New Texas811 Website. Smart. Sleek. Powerful.

• CHRISTI MCLAIN, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AT TEXAS811 •

ON AUGUST 10, 2022, Texas811 unveiled two new websites with a new layout that is easy to navigate.

The new sites are another Texas811 initiative to help stakeholders efficiently get what they need and help excavators and the general public easily access Texas811's information about safe digging.

A key change on the new website is the menu option at the top of the site that provides a one-stop shop for facility operators, excavators, and homeowners/DIYers. Examples include:

- The **Learning Hub** page that includes beneficial videos and information for Facility Operators, Professional Excavators, and Homeowners/DIYers.
- The **Self-Service Hub** page where facility operators can access forms to make changes to their company's contact information, utility mapping, or request a review of a locate request they received or should have received.
- The **What to Expect** pages for both excavators and homeowners/DIYers have been combined into one page with options to view "What to expect *before* and *after* contacting 811".
- **Texas811 En Español** has moved to its own website. The new **Texas811 En Español** website houses fresh new content translated into Spanish and can be accessed from the English website or by using the new website link. It's easy to toggle between the English and Spanish websites with just a click of a button on either website.



We patiently built the new website to optimize the user experience for facility operators, excavators, and homeowners/DIYers. All the information from our previous website is on the new enhanced site but presented in a more professional and navigable layout.



Mobile device users will notice the new website is also more mobile friendly.

Texas811 will continue to fine-tune the new website.

- For English content visit: www.Texas811.org.
- For Spanish content visit: www.texas811enespanol.org. **DP**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Marketing & Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@Texas811.org.





The vLoc3 Utility Locators introduces new innovative tools for locating buried utilities assuring damage prevention while gathering information for analysis. Signal distortion is easily detected and displayed on the bright full-color display. The vLoc3 series contains eight passive modes, fault-find and a range of frequencies from 16Hz to 200 kHz. www.vxmt.com



Plate-Guard is a modular system of polyethylene plates designed to protect a buried asset from 3rd-party damage, including the impact of an excavator bucket. Lightweight and flexible Plate-Guard is easy to assemble and install. It is the optimal product for pipeline and cable protection. www.plate-guard.com

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LaserMethane SMART

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PERGAM TECHNICAL SERVICES: Pergam Technical Services proudly presents the NEW **LaserMethane-SMART** handheld remote gas leak detector. The 'LM-SMART' is IOS and Android compatible with a 2.7" touch screen HD digital camera. Stores photos with measurements and inspection points on the SD card which can be uploaded to a secure cloud server. Self-check and automatic calibration on start-up ensure accurate and reliable gas leak detection every time. Uses AA rechargeable batteries.

The **Ultra Pro** acoustic camera pinpoints leaks of many gases or vacuum. Detect leaks from a safe distance of up to 300 ft away. Create leak videos and save images to create actionable reports. The camera output is viewed on the 4.25 x 2.5" touch screen and stored on the SD card (can be uploaded to the cloud for historical recall). The 124 high-sensitivity microphones provide real time data so leak rates can be assessed for severity. Also available in ATEX model.

The **Gas Tracker 2** by MADE provides easy line locating without tracer wire! Uses an internationally patented, unique signal injection method to locate the position and direction of buried plastic pipe from the surface. With the Resonator attached to the meter connection, locating and pinpointing non-tracer wire plastic pipes is quick and easy. Also ask us about the Aqua PL – a water utility line locator!

Introduction to APGA

• DAVE SCHRYVER, APGA PRESIDENT AND CEO •

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION (APGA) is the only trade association that solely represents the interests of public gas systems at the legislative and regulatory level. APGA advocates for policy priorities established by our members and educates policymakers, media and consumers about the interests and concerns that impact the operations of public gas systems. On behalf of our members, which are over 700 municipally owned natural gas systems in 38 states, APGA is committed to working with Congress, policymakers and our members in their local communities to advance policy priorities that protect consumer choice, maintain energy affordability and advance the reliability and efficiency of our country's energy future in a sustainable way.



**American Public
Gas Association**

Public gas systems' primary focus is on providing safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to their customers. As not-for-profit entities, they are incentivized to put the customer first and give back to the community; also, our members see themselves as responsible stewards of the environment and of their communities.

APGA provides a number of services to our members, ranging from education and advocacy to assistance on operations and safety. APGA's Operations & Safety program provides venues for continuous learning through conferences and workshops, disseminates critical pipeline safety information and provides access to tools and technologies that enhance the safe operations of public gas systems across the country. For instance, APGA's Gas Overall Awareness Level (GOAL) program helps members develop and implement Public Awareness Plans and periodically assess the effectiveness of their efforts to inform customers and non-customers close to its lines about the safe use of gas. The program also helps identify areas where they can further educate the public about safety measures, including the use of scratch and sniff cards to help customers become familiar with the odor of natural gas and with the steps they can take to make sure they're using gas safely.

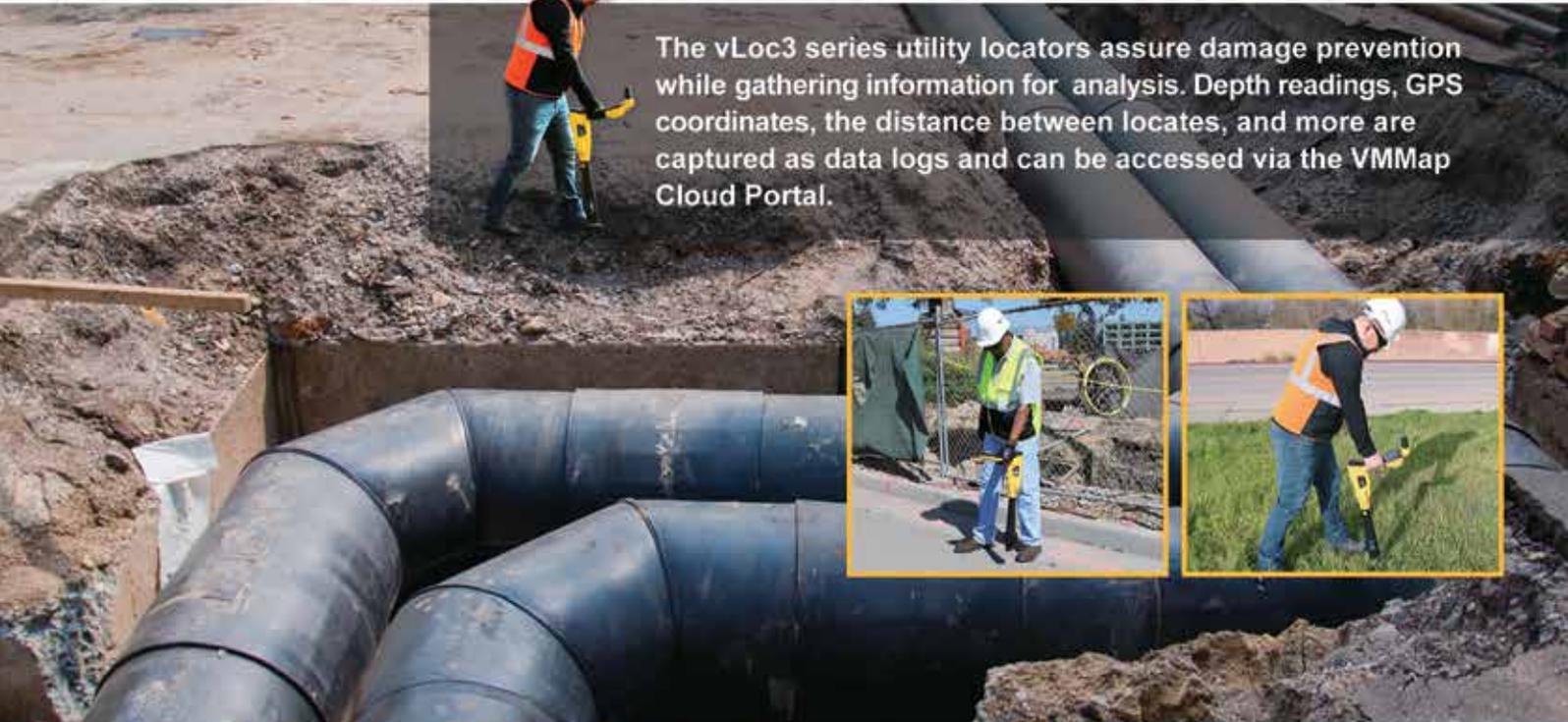
APGA also provides opportunities for public gas systems to engage with their peers and share insights and best practices. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, APGA held many member roundtables to discuss every aspect of navigating the pandemic. During these conversations, APGA members jointly discussed best practices for acquiring personal protective equipment, managing customer relationships and keeping their personnel socially distant while maintaining the operations of their systems and preserving consumer access to energy in this critical time

With its growing domestic supply and safe, reliable and efficient delivery system reaching almost every home and business in America, the direct use of natural gas is an important part of our country's energy future and a pathway to addressing global warming. Natural gas is three times more efficient than electricity, providing a low-cost clean energy source without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. The direct use of natural gas in homes and businesses reduces demand for other, more carbon intensive forms of energy and results in net carbon emission reductions.

Natural gas is an important part of our country's energy mix today and into the future. As we look to address global warming, natural gas should be viewed as part of the solution. APGA supports pragmatic policies to sustainably reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and advocates that the direct use of natural gas needs to be part of the solution. Policies that eliminate the direct use of natural gas are flawed, short-sighted and will only serve to negatively impact the millions of Americans who rely on natural gas to heat their homes, power their appliances and cook their food.

Although the direct use of natural gas in residential and commercial settings makes up only 12% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, our members, and APGA as a whole, are constantly looking for ways to improve operations in a way that reduces their footprint even further and enhances the environment, including through efficiency improvements and through investments in hydrogen and renewable natural gas. **DP**





The vLoc3 series utility locators assure damage prevention while gathering information for analysis. Depth readings, GPS coordinates, the distance between locates, and more are captured as data logs and can be accessed via the VMMap Cloud Portal.



vLoc3 Series of Utility Locators, Uncompromising Performance for Damage Prevention

- API
- ESRI GIS compatible
- Cloud-based data management
- Connect to third-party platforms
- Reduces multiple field equipment
- Export data in .cvs, .klm, .shp, .txt and .xls formats



vLoc3-Pro
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Locator

RTK-Pro
Locator with
GNSS

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Locator
Adapter

(attaches to the receiver bottom)

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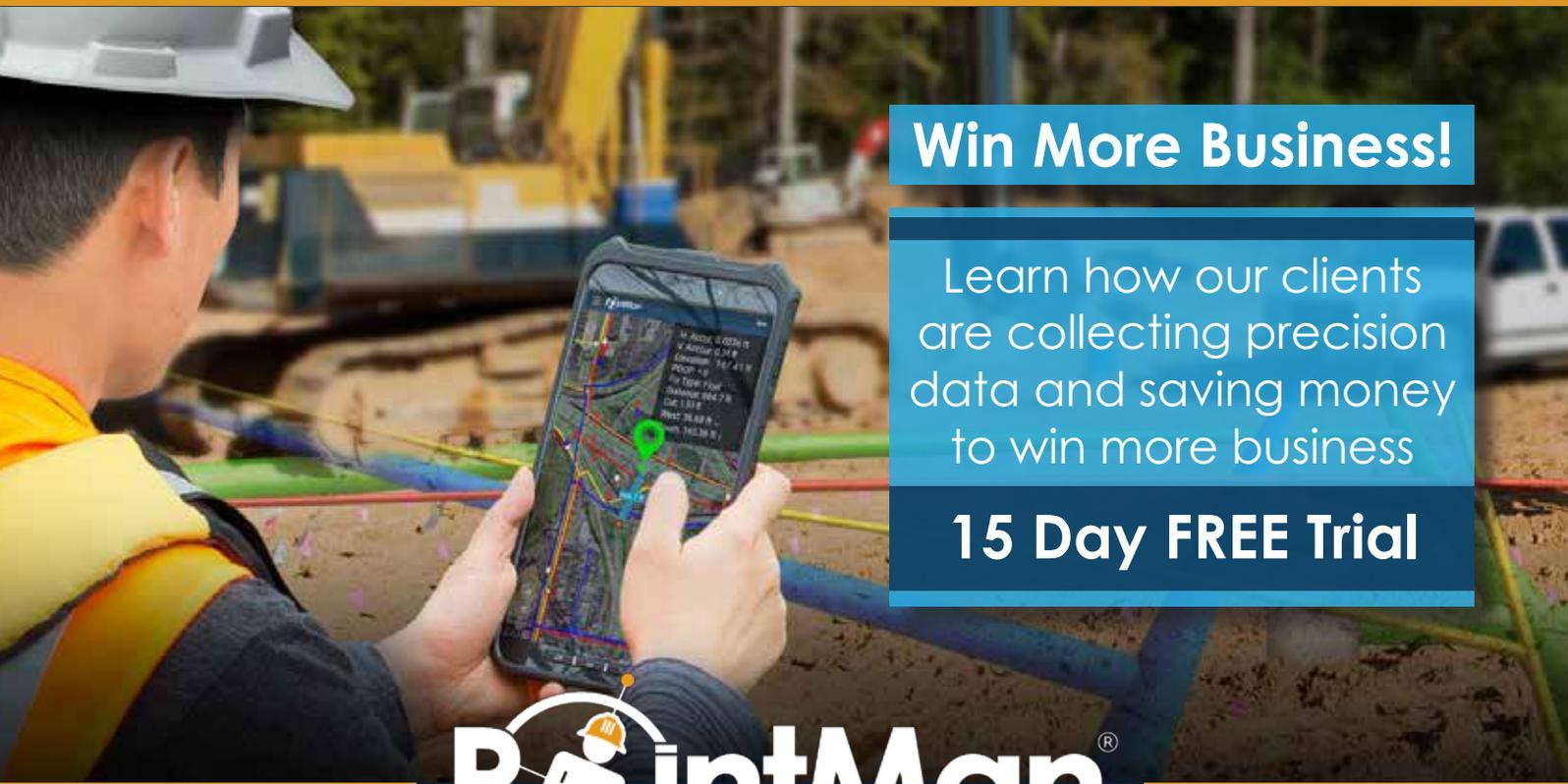
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