**February 8th, 2024, Town Hall**

**How Can Private Locators Enhance Excavation Safety?**

[10:42 AM] Levi Mills

Good morning, everyone!

[10:43 AM] Mike Sovereign

Feel free to put your questions in the chat!

[10:44 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

Jake - how accurate is the 811 information provided to contractors/private utility locators?

[10:48 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

In British Columbia (Canada) we only receive drawings from our OneCall Service. It is also not mandatory to be a member of OneCall as a utility owner here. As a contractor, we need to contract and pay for private locators ourselves. Unfortunately, the data provided by utility owners is often very poor or non-existent so we've had Private utility locator contractors miss things because they didn't know it was there and couldn't find it with GPR.

[10:48 AM] Randy Goodwin

I am shocked that people would undertake any excavation, drilling etc. without private locates.

[10:49 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

Thanks for your answer, Jake!

[10:50 AM] Adam Zeciri

Maps are wrong all the time… “Trust, but verify.”

[10:51 AM] Sher Kirk

How can notification centres (811/OneCalls) do a better job of educating the digging public? Often, awareness activity focuses 100% on contacting the notification centre and doesn't do enough to educate about the danger in not getting additional private locates.

[10:51 AM] Kemp Garcia - Linescape of WA (Guest)

When I get maps, which is rare, I write on my Work Order "Plans provided may be less than accurate."

[10:51 AM] Randy Goodwin

Private locators are not regulated (here in Canada).  We have a lot of incompetent private locators.  Excavators must do their due diligence to ensure they know what they are doing before hiring them.  Usually, the one that is the most expensive is likely the one that is more competent.

[10:53 AM] Kemp Garcia - Linescape of WA (Guest)

WA811 - has a list of private locators that can be provided that work in the state.  I get a bunch of calls from this list

[10:53 AM] Nate (Guest)

As the locator for a sewer utility in Carmel (TriCo) and knowing our laterals are private, whenever I see a private locator in the field, I make sure they know our prints/maps are public with some lateral information. Are other utility companies helpful with providing information to help you (the private locators) complete the private locate or not so much?

[10:55 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

What are 'laterals'?

[10:56 AM] Taylor, Tracy

lateral is the service line that connects the house to the sewer main.

[10:56 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

laterals would typically involve the connections between the distribution system lines to individual customer sites/homes

[10:57 AM] Kemp Garcia - Linescape of WA (Guest)

Inexpensive Insurance

[11:01 AM] Adam Zeciri

Avg fiber hit = $750,000 cost, water line hits can be $3M loss

[11:04 AM] Grant Piraine

I would like to speak about risk. Been in this industry for 34 years. I have owned three private locate companies and currently own 2. I have a lot to add to this topic.

[11:04 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Will 811/(or the like) in any state contact a private locator as they do with all the local utility operators?

[11:05 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

contact a private locator in what way?  Notify on digs?

[11:07 AM] Kemp Garcia - Linescape of WA (Guest)

As a Private locator I tell my crew that they need to educate our clients since they typically do not have good training on underground lines.  We have phone numbers for public locators to call if lines are not located or miss located.

[11:08 AM] Steve Slusarenko

I am working on a North American initiative where each utility owner will provide electronic map files to SUE firms and Locate Service Providers to give them a common operating picture of what is on-site and allow them to confirm the location of the infrastructure during the execution of their work.  In the end, the information confirmed in the field will provide a field-verified electronic file back to each utility owner so that they can confirm/update the accuracy of their records.  MN811 will make the mapping engine to do this available for free to all One Call Centers...

[11:10 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

Does any jurisdiction have GIS mapping data accessible for all public utilities? Currently some local governments have them available, however, we cannot obtain them from electrical, gas, etc.

[11:10 AM] LeSage, Fred

It's not an insurance policy, but it is a risk management tool.

[11:10 AM] Adam Zeciri

Locating technology needs to be applied in layers to tackle all possibilities. Each technology has limitations. EM can only find metal, GPR doesn’t always work, Acoustic w/ APL fills the void of EM and GPR. Passive sweeps and active sweeps w/ 480kHz w/ the Pipehorn.

[11:11 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

**Sheeran, Patrick** contact a private locator in what way? Notify on digs?

like the public locator?

[11:11 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

all utility owners, public or private, need to follow best practices standards for maintaining records on live (and abandoned) utility locations...this is one of the biggest issues that I see as an ongoing challenge to utility coordination.

[11:12 AM] Adam Zeciri

Look into ASCE/ UESI

[11:15 AM] kurt youngs (Guest)

no they will only contact members

[11:15 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

not as a locate request notification recipient...private locators are not 811 members that I'm aware of

[11:16 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Thanks, panelists, for that clarification!!

[11:17 AM] Justin Leisle (Ventana Construction) (Guest)

It would be great if One Call could collect it and put it in a database.

[11:17 AM] Adam Zeciri

4M Analytics compiles public utility data for use by private locators

11:17 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

As a representative of a County highway agency, we do share location information for the County utility lines, but our knowledge of the public utility networks is incomplete and not at all reliable from an engineering use standpoint.

[11:17 AM] LeSage, Fred

Will a private locator attempt to locate public utilities?  Maybe a verification of 811 locator markes?

[11:18 AM] Grant Piraine

My last point was that each of those SUE levels corresponds with private locates and the engineering standards gives levels of risk to each method. For all Level B locates, they give a moderate risk that they will be accurate. What does that say about private locates?

[11:18 AM] Kevin A. Hintz

yes they will

[11:19 AM] Kemp Garcia - Linescape of WA (Guest)

We will verify 811 locates.  But require that it is located first by 811.  Private locating should not be used as an option.  That is a bad risk and illegal in most states.

[11:20 AM] Grant Piraine

Private locators can verify, but they cannot mark in the identifying colors. Only pink paint for utility owned facilities.

[11:20 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Thank you Grant for sharing your valuable information with the group! You have been helpful!

[11:21 AM] Adam Zeciri

Private locating markings should be made using a different marking using pink to be easily differentiated from markings placed by the 811/ contract locator.

[11:23 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

**Adam Zeciri (Guest)**Private locating markings should be made using a different marking using pink to be easily differentiated from markings placed by the 811/ contract locator

That is interesting Adam...

[11:25 AM] Johnny Legocki

is there a master contact list of utility Locators?

[11:25 AM] Kathy Stieler

great info.  thank you all.

[11:25 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Great job panelists and to you as well Scott!

[11:25 AM] Grant Piraine

**Unknown User** is there a master contact list of utility Locators?

Not that I am aware of. Each Call Centre usually has a list.

[11:25 AM] Kevin A. Hintz

Master contact list yes for Indiana on INDOT website

[11:25 AM] Kevin A. Hintz

Unsure about others

[11:26 AM] Shannon Resmer

see you there Scott

[11:26 AM] Sheeran, Patrick

thanks to you all

[11:26 AM] Kevin A. Hintz

thank you

[Levi Mills: You are invited to complete February 8 ESA Town Hall Survey.](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/message/19:meeting_YWMyZmQ4MWYtMDAyZC00ZmM4LWFjYzAtNTA4MTI1MzUyZTUy@thread.v2/1707413181236?context=%7B%22contextType%22%3A%22chat%22%7D)

sent on February 8, 2024 11:26 AM

[11:26 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

Thank you Pipehorn!

[11:26 AM] Grant Black

Thank you for all being a part! Pipehorn supports public and private locates for utilities and saving time, money, and lives!

[11:26 AM] Johnny Legocki

Thank you all for hosting this informative discussion!

[11:27 AM] Don Plosser

Always happy to help with damage prevention and the part Pipehorn can play in that!

[11:27 AM] Sonnier, Raymond

I will see y’all there!!

[11:27 AM] Steve Slusarenko

Great session everyone!!!

[11:27 AM] Gennaro, Ana (CCI-California)

Thank you all !

[11:27 AM] Marisa (Guest)

thank you

[11:28 AM] Chris Fegan

Thanks everyone!