

#### **LOCATOR SURVEY: INITIAL RESEARCH OVERVIEW**

CGA worked with a third-party research firm to survey 402 U.S.-based locate technicians via email in the time period between Dec. 9, 2019 and Jan. 23, 2020. The goal of the survey was to gauge their awareness, beliefs and attitudes about the safe digging process and challenges to timely and accurate locating. Below are some of the initial data points gathered through that survey.

CGA will issue a Locator White Paper later this year with complete and detailed findings from this survey as well as in-depth interviews with members of the locating industry.

**Locator Wish List** for Improving Accuracy and Timeliness of Locates

99% Updated maps

97% Mandatory white-lining

97% Increased communication with excavator

#### **Biggest Challenges to Accurate, On-Time Locates**

Area to be marked isn't clearly defined

Incorrect information provided by excavator

#### **Safe Digging Practices Not Always Adhered To**

Communicate with on-site stakeholder or excavator

Respond to locate request in time outlined by state law

#### **Workload Manageability:**

8 in 10 locators say workload is manageable



Those who feel their workload is unmanageable are more likely to have less job experience and fewer opportunities for training.

#### **Access to Training**

of individuals have access to training through employers

of individuals have access through outside agencies

of individuals do not have access to training

#### **Frequency of Ongoing Training**



42% yearly 20% quarterly

19% never

10% less than once/year

10% other

93% of locators reported receiving training prior to beginning work.

#### **Awareness of Safe Digging Processes**

Notify **100%** 

Wait **98%** 

Locate and mark 100%

Confirm 97%

Dig carefully 98%

of surveyed locators believe they are important to the safe digging process



### **Perceived Importance When Measuring Job Performance**



# Importance of Improving Safety Through Timely and Accurate Locates

97% agree it's important to them

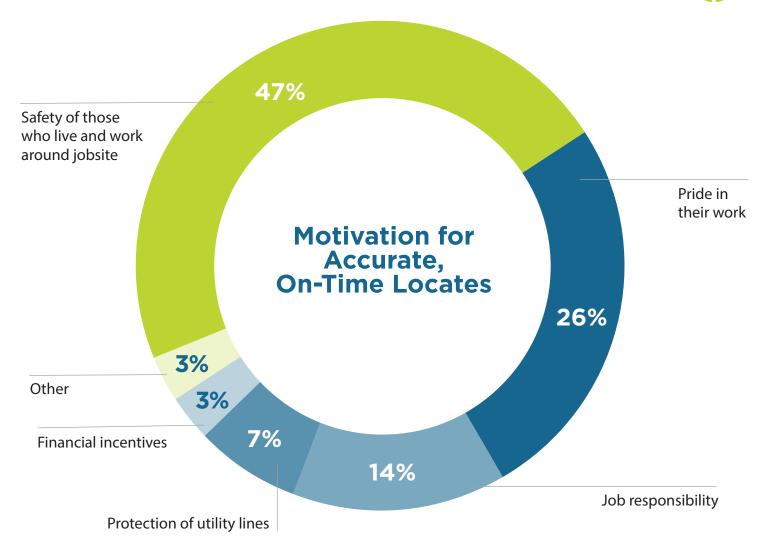
94% agree it's important to their company/organization

# Frequency of Late and Inaccurate Locates

61% of locators believe late locates occur frequently
50% believe inaccurate

**50%** believe inaccurate locates occur frequently





## **Top 3 Causes of Damages Due to Locate Issues\***

Inaccurate marking due to locator technician error - 19%

Inaccurate locate due to poor signal - 17%

Facility not marked due to no response from operator/contract locator - 9%