

Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance



January 2017

CGA Excavation Safety Conference & Expo

A wide-angle photograph of a large, multi-story resort hotel with multiple towers and a central clock tower. The hotel is surrounded by lush green lawns, palm trees, and a golf course with several green fairways and sand bunkers. In the foreground, there's a body of water, possibly a lake or a large pond, reflecting the sky. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

March 14-16, 2017
Rosen Shingle Creek
in Orlando, Florida



CGA Conference is Around the Corner!

We can't wait to see you all at the CGA Excavation Safety Conference and Expo, set to take place at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla. March 14-16!

In addition to the pre-conference committee meetings, the educational sessions, the bustling expo floor and the rich networking opportunities you're used to, CGA is proud to be hosting a 10th anniversary celebration for 811 on Wednesday, March 15 that is not

to be missed. Read on for more conference highlights!

Committee meetings

All CGA committees will be meeting at the Rosen Shingle Creek conference facilities just prior to the official opening of the CGA Conference. Whether you're a dedicated committee member or someone who is interested in learning more about the incredible work these groups do, please consider [registering for](#) and attending these meetings. The pre-conference meetings are an excellent time for new members to get involved, as each

committee will present an overview of its goals and work for new attendees. [Click here](#) to view the meeting schedule and to register to attend.

Additionally, CGA would like to thank all of our continuing and new committee co-chairs for their time and dedication in leading these groups:

Best Practices Committee Co-Chairs

Scott Berry, AGC
Mark Newman, *TransCanada*

Data Committee Co-Chairs

Bruce Campbell, *Miss Dig System, Inc.*
Bob Terjesen, *National Grid*

Educational Programs Committee Co-Chairs

Kim Kosky, *UtiliQuest*
Lee Richards, *Ohio Utilities Protection Service*

OCSI Committee Co-Chairs

Kevin Hopper, *Dig Safely New York*
Ellen Kiger, *Pennsylvania 811*

Stakeholder Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

Allen Gray, *Carolinas AGC*
Eric Swartley, *UGI Utilities*

Technology Committee Co-Chairs

Michael Muilenburg, *USIC*
Thomas Young, *SeeScan*

Regional Partner Committee Co-Chairs

Tracey Bryant, *Vectren*
Steve Light, *VA811*

811's 10th anniversary celebration

The national call before you dig number is turning 10 this year, and we can't wait to celebrate with damage prevention advocates from across the globe. The 10th Anniversary Celebration will take place from **6-9 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 15** at the Rosen Shingle Creek.

All full conference registrants will be admitted to the 10-year anniversary party. We are thrilled to include all damage prevention advocates in celebrating our shared accomplishments in reducing damages to underground infrastructure.

We hope you will join us for this opportunity to recognize the hard work of CGA members, and kick off the next decade of damage prevention. The 811 Hot Air Balloon will be unveiled, select 811 Video Challenge submissions will be shown, and food, drinks and games will be provided.

The 10-year anniversary celebration will also function as CGA's sponsor reception. Because we encourage all damage prevention stakeholders to attend the celebration, we ask that you please consider hosting customer events on Monday or Tuesday night to ensure everyone can attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Call Before You Divot Classic

The Fourth Annual Call Before You Divot Classic will take place at Shingle Creek Golf Club

at 2 p.m. (shotgun start) on **Thursday, March 16**. This challenging yet playable course design lies along historic Shingle Creek and features interconnected waterways, undulating fairways and breathtaking 360° views.

Named by Golfweek as one of America's Top 40 New Courses and one of central Florida's Top 10 Toughest Courses by Orlando Business Journal, this spectacular challenge offers five-diamond service standards and an 18-hole, par 72 (7,149 yards) championship golf course.

The tournament will be a four person scramble/best ball. There will be team prizes, skill holes, closest to the pin and many other prizes presented at the awards reception following the golf outing.

[Click here](#) to download the registration form.



Stakeholder Advocacy Briefing

Legislative Activity Update & Information Request

The goal of CGA's Stakeholder Advocacy Committee is to work with local stakeholders to educate state and federal policymakers regarding the use of CGA best practices to impact legislation and/or regulations. As part of this mission, the committee is tasked with keeping stakeholders up-to-date on current legislative activity throughout the United States.

One way CGA members can track damage prevention regulation changes by state is through the legislative activity StateTrack report. This report, provided to CGA through a partnership with the National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA), is posted monthly in the Stakeholder Advocacy Resources Toolkit and provides an update on pending legislative changes throughout the country.

The committee is also interested in hearing from CGA members about plans for future advocacy efforts. This includes the formation of local coalitions and task teams with the goal of modifying damage prevention regulation. If you have an update or additional information to share, please complete the legislative activity questionnaire to let us know what is being accomplished at the local level.

DIRT FILE: Accessing VPD Registrations

Last month's newsletter featured an article on Virtual Private DIRT (VPD). It noted that companies participating in a VPD need only enter their data once and it is available to CGA for the annual report for the U.S. and Canada, and to the VPD host for local analysis. While true, be aware of an important caveat.

Gloria Grev of Southwest Gas (and longtime CGA Data Committee member) has kindly allowed us to use her as an example. Southwest Gas operates in Arizona, California and Nevada, but only California has a VPD. Gloria is registered in both CGA DIRT North America and California 811's VPD, and sees the following when logging into DIRT:

Registered Applications:

CGA DIRT North America, as Gloria Grev of Southwest Gas	Access
California 811 - Virtual Private DIRT, as Gloria Grev of Southwest Gas	Access

Gloria could enter all Southwest Gas data through CGA DIRT North America. However, the Application Administrators for California 811 VPD then would not have Southwest Gas data included when using the Browse Damage Reports or Browse File Uploads features of DIRT. In Query Wizard, California 811 would see "scrubbed" data only if Southwest Gas had provided a Data Grant. "Scrubbed" means there would be no identifying information indicating the data came from Southwest Gas.

Therefore, to realize the full benefits of a VPD, Gloria should access California 811's VPD to enter reports for California. Since Arizona and Nevada do not have VPDs, she should use CGA DIRT North America for reports in those states. While she need only enter each report once, she does need to be aware of where she's entering it. If entering data by bulk up-

load Excel CSV files, she needs to load two separate files.

Users with multiple registrations should use the single sign-on URL



rather than the following:



The latter will take you directly to CGA DIRT North America without the option to access a different application.

Users registered in only one application, whether CGA DIRT North America or a VPD, do not need to be concerned with this. Some companies however, such as transmission pipelines, operate in multiple states or provinces, some with and some without VPDs. Some companies operate in a single state, but have a CGA DIRT North America registration predating a second registration in a VPD. These users should also take care to enter data through the proper application.

If you have questions about your DIRT registration(s) or how to enter data, please submit a DIRT Support Ticket or call Steve Blaney at **571-297-0810**.

REMINDER:

The deadline to enter 2016 data for inclusion in the next annual DIRT Report is March 31, 2017.

Data Entry Webinar:

CGA will hold a webinar on Feb. 7, 2017 at 2 p.m. to demonstrate how to enter DIRT reports individually and by bulk upload. This is intended for anybody new to DIRT reporting, who would like a refresher, or has experienced issues with data entry in the past.



Communication is Key to Success in Damage Prevention

By Roy Rogers, Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council chairman

In the damage prevention industry, which includes locators, 811 centers, construction companies, utility companies and many other industries in between, being able to communicate our ideas and what we need is crucial – and indeed, lives are on the line if we fail.

Through the Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council (GUCC), Georgia stakeholders have found a voice to keep communication alive. The GUCC consists of professionals who strive to make communication and damage prevention the key to our success. Under the board of the GUCC, which includes members from GA811, Georgia Public Service Commission, GDOT, various utility companies, contractor and excavation companies and locators, we have created various committees and groups to discuss the many issues facing damage prevention in our state.

One of the biggest issues facing Georgia is underground excavation. As the economy improves, Georgia and many other states have seen large increases in infrastructure and utility construction. In response, the GUCC Legislative Committee sprang to action. Having coordinated through the years to renew and update our Georgia dig law, this committee, chaired by Rick Lonn with Southern Company Gas, saw the need to tackle these new increased volumes head on.

The legislative group formed a smaller ad hoc committee to look at the increased volumes of work. They discussed ways to ensure our state's damage prevention process could handle the increased workload. Our goal was to make sure both our law, and our process were crafted to benefit everyone involved. We wanted to make sure our locators had the resources they needed to locate the thousands of miles of utilities underground. It was crucial that our contractors and excavators were educated and had the tools they needed to properly identify the areas in which locates are needed. And our utilities, which provide much needed resources to our citizens, have the tools to guarantee the pipelines and cables are safe and continue providing those required resources.

Within this smaller committee, ideas were formed. Some were argued and some were agreed

upon without a second thought. Without a doubt the key to it all was industry communication. We found the voice to discuss issues that ultimately everyone in the industry would face. Throughout it all we found resolve. As our committee found the answers, they were communicated throughout the state through Utility Coordination meetings, known as UCC meetings. These meetings, which connect 45 committees and conduct over 450 local meetings annually through our seven DOT regions, bring the information from our committees to the far reaching areas of our state. Additionally, the GUCC holds both a spring and fall conference providing access to education so stakeholders can perform their work efficiently, with reduced risk to themselves and the utilities around them.

Throughout this amazing process Georgia has strived to lead the way in providing the most crucial asset needed—communication! We are not finished, and never will be. GUCC discussions birth new creative ways to tackle our issues. The continued commitment ensures we are doing our best to make the process and our state better.



News Briefs

A legacy of damage prevention in the south

Louisiana One Call was proud to accept Brian Tooley's ([Lone Star 811](#)) donation of his dad's plaque and hat! These are mementos of the early days of damage prevention when proactive leaders in the utility community



Brian Tooley with Lone Star 811 gifts his father's hat and plaque to Louisiana One Call! Pictured: Charlene Ellison (Louisiana One Call), Brian Tooley (Lone Star 811), and Thelma Coleman (Louisiana One Call).

began working together to improve the communication and cooperation between the stakeholders in order to prevent damages and enhance public safety.

E.H. Tooley III, a lifelong Louisianian, was a World War II fighter pilot (member of the famed Flying Tigers), a professional engineer with 44 years of service with AT&T and BellSouth (including District Engineering Manager for northern Louisiana), a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, Knights of Columbus, and many other volunteer organizations. He was well respected in the community and beloved by all who knew him.

When the Caddo Parish Utility Coordinating Council was formed in the early 1980's, the Louisiana Damage Prevention Law was not yet in effect and the public awareness campaign reminded the public to call DOTTIE (Dial One Time To Inform Everyone) before digging. We've come a long way since the early days of damage prevention with the emergence of CGA Connect, the implementation of 811, and the great work being done by many stakeholders.

OCC films with Hunting in the Sticks

Jimmy Jennings, 811 Bike Wrangler, went down to sunny Louisiana with Mark Stowe on Dec. 14 to film for the new season of Hunting in the Sticks! One Call Concepts' Adam Franco was also on deck fishing for red fish with the crew off the coast of Boothville, La. Check your listings for showtimes.

Ryan White, Mark Stowe and Jimmy Jennings.





MARCH 14-16
2017

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ORLANDO, FL

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Subsurface Utility Locating & Marking

*Workshop cost not included with registration fee



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Contact Vicki Husome at
vicki@emailir.com for more information



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Reserve your room by Wednesday, February 15, 2017 to take advantage of special room block rates.

Call 407-996-6338

Use code "CGAFEB" when registering for the Conference to get a free t-shirt while supplies last.

CGAconference.com | 866.279.7755

#CGAExpo17

CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering

CGA Best Practices 13.0, 2014 DIRT and 811 Safety Education Videos

To get your copy of the Best Practices 13.0 [click here](#) or for
DIRT [click here](#) and look for the appropriate buttons to order.



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