

Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

CGATM
Common Ground Alliance

January 2016

Join Us at the CGA
Annual Meeting in
Las Vegas on March 9

THE MIRAGE

CGA to Hold Annual Meeting in Las Vegas on March 9

The Common Ground Alliance Annual Meeting and Breakfast, which is held during the CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference and Expo each year, will take place Wednesday, March 9 from 8-9:30 a.m. at The Mirage in Las Vegas, Nev. The meeting is open for all conference attendees to join.

Featured guest speakers will include Chris John, president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, a former congressman who represented Louisiana's 7th Congressional District from 1997 to 2005 and served on the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the individual who worked to secure the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) approval of 811 as the national call-before-you-dig number; and Marie Therese Dominguez, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's



Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Senator Grant Mitchell, who represents Alberta in the Canadian Senate and serves as Deputy Chair on the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, will speak about damage prevention laws and practices in Canada. Victor Espinoza, the 811-sponsored jockey who rode to first place finishes in the 2014 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes and went on to win the Triple Crown in 2015, will also be in attendance to share his success while sporting the 811 logo.

During the Annual Meeting, CGA will present awards in three different categories – a tradition that has been followed for 11 years. The awards presented honor the successes of CGA members and those in the larger damage prevention community and include the Ron Olitsky Member of the Year Award, the Jim Barron Award for Excellence in Damage Prevention, and the Hall of Fame Awards. Nominations were submitted to CGA in January and evaluated by an award selection subcommittee of the CGA working committees and board members.

The Annual Meeting will also feature highlights of the year about CGA's key areas of focus – best practices, damage and near miss data reporting, the 811 campaign, technology, one call systems, regional partner groups and stakeholder advocacy.

We look forward to another great Annual Meeting with you on March 9!

Don't Miss CGA's Conference Booths!

During the conference, be sure to check out CGA's two booths in the exhibit hall: our main CGA booth (#300), as well as our booth focusing exclusively on the Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT, #123).

At the CGA booth, you can learn more about the latest work being done by CGA's committees or update your CGA membership on-the-spot. At the DIRT booth, you can learn more about the latest DIRT reports and have your questions answered by experts.

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CGA Best Practices 13.0 to Debut at Annual Meeting

CGA will release Best Practices 13.0, the definitive source for damage prevention practices and information, at this year's CGA Annual Meeting and conference in Las Vegas on March 9. All attendees will receive a printed copy of the guide, and CGA will also post a PDF file of the guide at commongroundalliance.com/best-practices-guide. With the guide about to release, here's a look at some frequently asked questions about CGA's original program.

Q: What are CGA's Best Practices?

A: CGA's Best Practices is a book that features damage prevention best practices that have earned consensus support from all 16 stakeholder groups that comprise CGA. These practices cover all stakeholder groups and the entire process from one call center notification to locating to excavation. Each new edition of Best Practices is distributed at the CGA Annual Meeting (typically held in mid-March) and also available digitally [here](#). You may also order copies of Best Practice books by completing an order form by clicking [here](#).

Q: How is a new Best Practice proposal considered for inclusion?

A: Each new proposed practice requires a seven-step process that begins by completing a BP proposal form. Each submitted

proposal form is added to the next Best Practices Committee meeting agenda, where the committee must reach consensus on moving forward with the review process. Each item that advances through this initial review is assigned a transaction record (TR) number and is investigated in more detail by a subcommittee, which will draft Best Practices language for full committee comment. TR's that receive consensus approval from all stakeholder industries represented on the committee are then forwarded to the CGA Board of Directors for final approval. To access the proposal form, please click [here](#).

Q: Does a Best Practice need to be tested as a pilot program to be adopted by CGA?

A: CGA does not require a Best Practice proposal to have been tested as a pilot program, but it is encouraged. If a pilot program associated with a new Best Practice proposal has occurred and results have been documented, the CGA Best Practices Committee would use that information to determine if a proposed practice is worthy of further review.

Q: Is there a deadline for submitting a practice proposal?

A: CGA is always open to receiving practice proposals from members. CGA recommends members consult with the Best Practices Committee schedule to submit a proposal in advance of an upcoming meeting.

Q: How can I learn more about CGA's Best Practices Committee?

A: Click [here](#) to learn more about the Best Practices Committee.

We want to hear from you!

CGA published more than 150 pages of damage prevention news in the CGA Update during 2015, and we look forward to highlighting even more of your efforts in 2016. The CGA Update is published monthly, and all content should be emailed to newsletter@commongroundalliance.com by the 10th of the month for consideration. Articles should be 500 words or less (exceptions can be granted), and the preferred photo resolution is a minimum DPI of 300 (no smaller than 2"x3"). Images any smaller become pixilated when enlarged. Share your efforts with the 2,000 member distribution list of damage prevention stakeholders.



Riding the Wave

Mike Sullivan, Executive Director, CCGA & President, Alberta One-Call Corporation

As the price of oil continues its tailspin, there's another, quieter casualty mixed in among the falling price of commodities. With the hydrocarbon industry forced to make difficult decisions, some of the damage prevention industry's elder statesmen and women, people who helped carve early practices, procedures and regulations governing safe digging, have also been lost.

"There's definitely been considerable transitioning," says Michelle Tetreault, Executive Director of the Alberta Common Ground Alliance, "and perhaps no other province has felt it like Alberta. The most recent count is 65,000 jobs lost in the last eight months."

The torch needs to be passed, and we need to firmly position the damage prevention mandate among the new, younger people whom we hope will begin to take ownership of these important and critical roles. And, in the same context, some of us need to begin to let go a little and provide additional mentoring.

"The world is changing – dramatically!" says Nathalie Moreau, Chair of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance. "And we need to evolve with it. If we don't, we risk, at the very least, our relevance and importance. Damage prevention has achieved a significant profile in North America, and we need to maintain that momentum. We need to demonstrate how our mandate can contribute to environmental objectives."

"So maybe this is how we transition; looking to the younger people to help us strategically align our objectives with global environmental concerns."

Nathalie is right. Global emphasis on the environment is at its highest, and I believe the Common Ground Alliance needs to demonstrate how it should position its objectives in this new world order.

Preserving the environment for future generations is never far from the top of the Western civilization's agenda, yet the connection to a robust damage prevention mandate, governance, practice, and legislation to help meet environmental goals has never been fully developed.

"The emphasis on environmental protection isn't lost on the damage prevention stakeholders," provides Mr. Dean Reeve, the new Vice-Chair of the CCGA. "If you think

about it, damage prevention plays a critical role achieving environmental goals. It's as easy as this: as long as product stays in the pipe, we're contributing in a positive way. And one of the simplest ways to do that is to know what's below before digging."

A gradual shift away from fossil fuels appears to be the goal, but at the moment we're scrambling to reduce like we're frantically working out after the holidays. Will we succeed? Yes, because I have faith in mankind, I think we will, but it is challenging.

So maybe this is how we transition: looking to the younger people to help us strategically align our objectives with global environmental concerns. We share a future, but let's face it; the younger folks are going to be here longer. It's time to turn to them to begin to shape the next phase.

Moving forward is innate to us. We do it out of necessity. But, I also believe it is fundamentally critical to never lose sight of where you've been. In Canada, the most recent data provides that underground infrastructure is damaged 40 times every day. That means we are potentially harming the environment 40 times per day. We can do better – a lot better.

As damage prevention loses some of its elders, we also have an opportunity. Safety objectives are a never-ending goal. As a result, the safety mandate is passed from one generation to the next. With each "passing of the torch," new ideas and new champions emerge. I'm anxious to see where the next generation takes the damage prevention mandate and the goals they will achieve.

2016 Underground Utilities Damage Prevention & Awareness Garden

Touting messages of safety and awareness in a collaboration with JULIE, Inc. (JULIE) and DIGGER, NPL Construction Co., a national leader in pipeline construction, is once again taking the message of digging safety to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, taking place March 12-20, 2016 at Chicago's acclaimed Navy Pier.

Cultivating the next generation of gardeners and engaging attendees with thought provoking and realistic solutions to impact their own green spaces are priorities of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. It was with this goal in mind that the Underground Utilities Damage Prevention & Awareness Garden was created in 2015.

Using a one-of-a-kind gas line display, NPL is encouraging anyone from construction workers and landscapers to everyday gardeners to call 811 before they dig. This year's display adds electric and water service to the previous year's gas service to clearly show the dangers of digging without calling 811.

The roots of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show date back as far as 1847. The show creates an experience that attendees will not soon forget by presenting realistic DIY solutions to inspire, educate and motivate the next generation of gardeners. Highlights include:

Gardening Live Stage & Seminar Series:

A continued focus on educational, interactive workshops and seminars by leading industry professionals.

Garden Gourmet Stage:

Cooking demonstrations by top chefs in a garden setting.

Kids' Activity Garden:

Hands-on fun and learning for future gardeners and gardening consumers.

Photography Competition:

A judged exhibit by amateur photographers.

Art of Floral Exhibit:

Stunning interpretive floral designs by the American Institute of Floral Designers.

The Marketplace:

A shopper's paradise with more than 100 exhibitors from the green industry and offering related goods and services.

Evening in Bloom:

A charity VIP event that provides a sneak peek of the Flower and Garden Show prior to opening to the public. Proceeds benefit local greening and charitable organizations.

To showcase your company within the Underground Utilities Damage Prevention & Awareness Garden, email Tony@ChicagoFlower.com, call 312-241-1249, or visit <http://bit.ly/CFGSSupport>. To purchase tickets, visit chicagoflower.com/tickets and use code "JULIE16" to save \$2 off already discounted online pricing.



News Briefs

Jimmy the Bike Wrangler picked up his new and customized 811 motorcycle helmet painted by Nub Grafix, the same artist who painted the 811 Bike.

Kansas 811 decked the halls, hung the stockings and decorated the tree for Christmas.

New Jersey One Call gave a "Christmas reminder" to always call 811 before you dig.

North Dakota One Call spread some holiday cheer with the Elf on the Shelf this year.

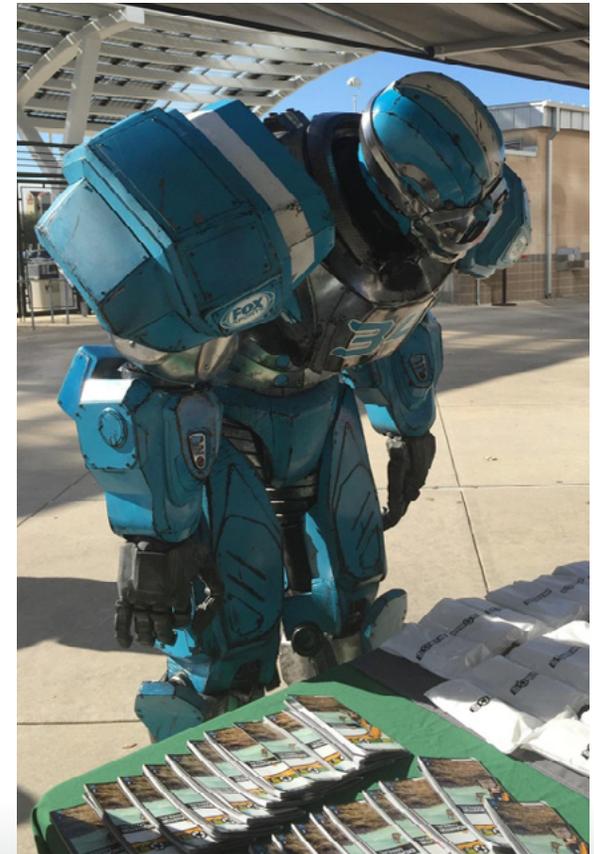


Jimmy with his helmet



Lone Star 811 toy drive

Lone Star 811 spent Dec. 17-19 spreading the 811 message and teaching people about safe digging at the UIL State Football Championships. Tons of people stopped by the booth to learn about 811, including Cleatus, the FOX Sports robot (pictured at right). Additionally, Lone Star 811 was proud to be a part of the High Plains Damage Prevention Council Toy Drive on Dec. 18. All of the toys collected were sent to Faith City Ministries.





Texas811's Upcoming Events

Texas811 has opened the throttle wide with many events and initiatives taking place this winter and spring. The Texas811 Damage Prevention Summit will take place Feb. 22-24, 2016 in San Marcos, Texas, and will feature training workshops, breakout sessions, the Texas811 annual meeting, a large exhibit hall, golf tournament, casino night and more. Visit texas811.damagepreventionsummit.com for more information.

The 19th Annual Texas811 Golf Tournament will be held on April 29 at Bear Creek Golf Course in Grapevine, Texas. The 18-hole event



Texas811 is proud to host the 2016 International Locate Rodeo, which will be held June 23-25 at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas. The event includes an exhibit hall, breakout meetings, breakfast, the Locate

Photo L-R: Texas811 President Mike Losawyer, actor Burton Gilliam and Chris Stovall, Director of Operations at Texas811.

features a helicopter ball drop, golf swing analyst, raffle and lunch. All proceeds benefit The Turning Point, a nonprofit organization that supports those impacted by sexual violence in North Texas. Players in the tournament will have the chance to golf with actor Burton Gilliam of "Blazing Saddles" fame, as well as receive tips from LPGA Tour professional Wendy Ward. Visit texas811.org for additional information.



Rodeo competition, awards dinner and casino night. Texas811 looks forward to seeing you there!

Texas811 Salutes Veterans

All commercial buildings are mandated by law to provide disabled parking by their entrance. Taking that mandate a step further, Texas811's Quality Assurance Manager Jose Ortega decided Texas811 should do something unique for its military veterans: giving them designated parking spots near the office's front door, featuring signage designed by Texas811's graphics leader Lauren Losawyer.

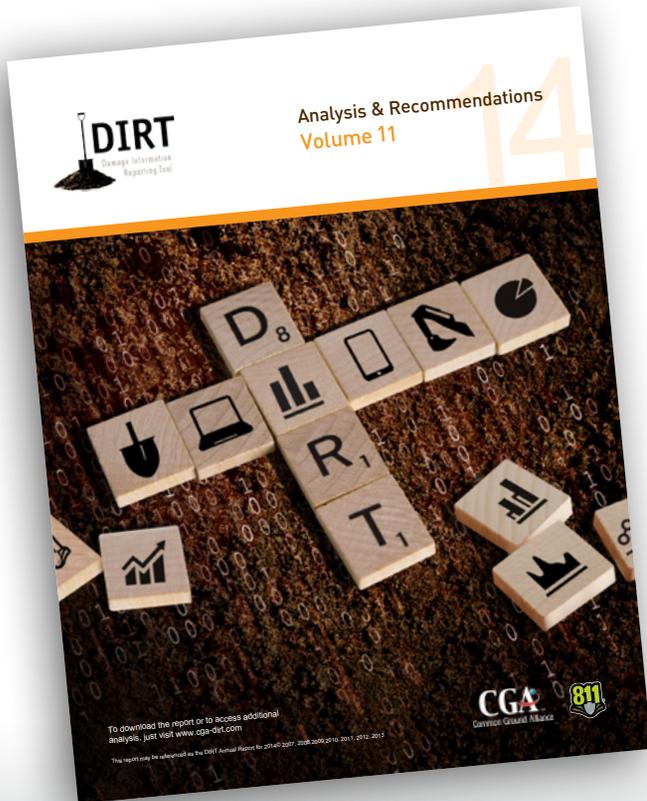
"I'm always looking for ways to help our company stand out and really motivate our employees," said Jose. "Here at Texas811 we have plenty of veterans, and we all support them. So we decided to roll this out for them, and it was a huge hit. Not only did it show our vets how grateful we are, but it also showed the rest of the employees we are here for them as much as they are here for us."

Jose has a brother who is a veteran and says he has always had great respect for those who have served. As Texas811 completes a much needed office expansion in 2016, Jose says employee veterans can look forward to more easy access parking signs in their future.

DIRT

Do's & Don'ts

Now that 2015 is behind us, it's time to get your DIRT data ready and submit it by the March 31, 2016 deadline. This is an opportune time to re-emphasize data quality and provide some do's and don'ts for entering DIRT data. Better quality data will ultimately lead to more accurate and useful DIRT reports. In addition, it will benefit companies and Virtual Private DIRT adminis-



trators that use DIRT Query Wizard features to analyze their own data.

Excavation Practices Not Sufficient

"Excavation practices not sufficient" has consistently been the largest root cause group (see Exhibit 3 of the 2014 DIRT report). A root cause group is composed of the second level root causes as depicted on the offline Field Form and the DIRT website form.

***Part I – Root Cause**

One-Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient

- No notification made to the One-Call Center
- Notification to one-call center made, but not sufficient
- Wrong information provided to One Call Center

Excavation Practices Not Sufficient

- Failure to maintain marks
- Failure to support exposed facilities
- Failure to use hand tools where required
- Failure to test-hole (pot-hole)
- Improper backfilling practices
- Failure to maintain clearance
- Other insufficient excavation practices

"Other" has consistently been the most used selection from this group (see Exhibit 7 of the 2014 DIRT report). However, some DIRT users enter data as in the examples below, where they do have a specific description of the insufficient excavation practice, but choose "INSUFEX" as the root cause and put comments in the

Part I: Description of the Root Cause

*Choose a first-level cause: Excavation practices not sufficient

*Choose a 2nd-level cause: please select an item from the list below:

For Other/None of the above, please explain: please select an item from the list below:

- Excavation practices not sufficient (other)
- Failure to maintain clearance
- Failure to maintain the marks
- Failure to support exposed facilities
- Failure to use hand tools where required
- Failure to verify location by test-hole (pot-holing)
- Improper backfilling

Part J: Additional Comments (Character)

Don't do this

damage_cause	damage_other_desc
INSUFEX	Failure to maintain clearance
INSUFEX	Marks destroyed
INSUFEX	Failure to support exposed facility
INSUFEX	failure to use hand tools
INSUFEX	failure to pothole

damage_other_desc column. The Bulk Upload Specification (see excerpt below) may be contributing to this by creating confusion between first versus second level root causes. Many DIRT users default to "INSUFEX" (ID 15). We plan to address the bulk upload specification to reduce this confusion. Meanwhile, we request that users with information indicating the root cause fits ID choices 19 – 24 use those as the damage_cause. Better characterization of the insufficient excavating practice can lead to more targeted solutions to avoid these damages. Because the majority of damages fall within this group, reducing them can have the greatest impact on reducing damages overall.

Do this

ID	damage_cause	damage_other_desc
15	INSUFEX	
19	EXCLEARANCE	Failure to maintain clearance
20	EXMARKS	Marks destroyed
21	EXSUPPORT	Failure to support exposed facility
22	EXHANDTOOL	Failure to use hand tools
23	EXTESTHOLE	Failure to pothole
24	EXBACKFILL	Improper backfill

Choose only if 19-24 don't fit or you don't have the information

Company and Reporting Stakeholder

Below is a sample of DIRT output data. "Company Stakeholder" is based on the company's DIRT registration information and is not entered by users. "Reporting Stakeholder" is entered by users.

Don't do this

comp_stakeholder_group	rpt_stakeholder_group
LIQPIPE	LIQPIPE
NATGAS	NATGAS
TELC	TELC
1CAL	1CAL
LOCA	LOCA
EXCV	EXCV

Some one call centers take "damage tickets" from excavators and convert those into DIRT data. Excavators have historically submitted a small percentage of the events in DIRT (see Exhibit 10 from the 2014 DIRT Report). However, we believe there are reports from excavators hidden among the 1CALs in the Reporting Stakeholder field. One call centers do not operate or locate buried utilities, perform excavation work, or execute damage investigations. Therefore, 1CAL should rarely, if ever, appear in the Reporting Stakeholder field. The original source of the report should be used in conformance with the DIRT Users Guide, which states: "For one call centers that compile data from other parties, such as their membership, for submission to DIRT, the original-source stakeholder group should be used rather than one call center, to allow for more accurate analysis of the original source of the data."

Do this

comp_stakeholder_group	rpt_stakeholder_group
1CAL	EXCV
1CAL	NATGAS
1CAL	TELC

Type of Event

CGA is interested only in events involving underground facilities and excavation activity. The non-underground types of events were added at the request of users desiring to track them for their own purposes. However, the Bulk Upload Specification has not been updated to include the "Type of Event" field, so some users are submitting reports like the example shown below. Please do not include non-excavation damages in your bulk upload. Above ground, aerial, natural cause, and submarine events must be entered individually via the DIRT website, where you can use the drop-down arrow.

Don't do this

damage_cause	damage_other_desc
OTHER	mower hit gas meter
OTHER	runaway car hit meter
NOTCOL	pole and riser hardware
NOTCOL	aerial service wire
OTHER	above ground

Do this

Part B: Date and Location of the event	
*NEW*Type of event:	Above Ground/Surface ▾
*Date of event:	Underground (default)
*Country	Above Ground/Surface
*State	Aerial
*County	Natural Cause
	Submarine

Suggestions

Key tips for submitting DIRT data include:

- Re-read **Improving Your DIRT DQI Score** from the May 2015 CGA Update, which can be found on the CGA website under "Media and Reports."
- Refer to the **DIRT Users Guide** for assistance in selecting proper entries for DIRT fields.
- Submit a Feedback/Support ticket from the DIRT website (www.cga-dirt.com) if you have a question about entering data.
- Share this article with the people in your organization involved in data reporting who are DIRT registrants but are not CGA members and do not receive the CGA Update.

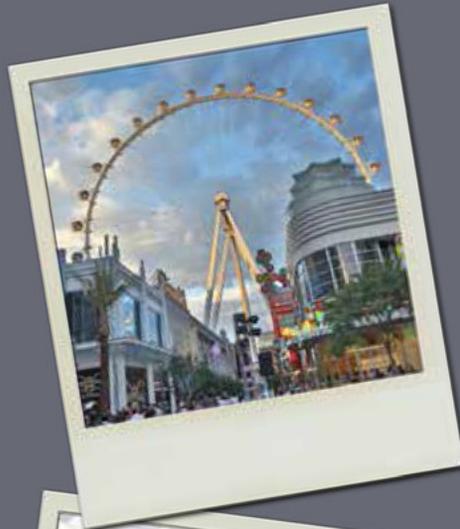


THE MIRAGE | LAS VEGAS
March 8-10, 2016

Networking Events

See the Beautiful Vegas Skyline from 550ft!

Join industry leaders after hours on Wednesday at the High Roller Observation Wheel networking event.



Register Now

Learn More

3rd Annual Call Before You Divot Classic

End your trip at the beautiful Canyon Gate Country Club, one of the premier Las Vegas golf courses on Thursday.



Register Now

866.279.7755

CGAconference.com

New this year - Critical Industry Summits!

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION



WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

TheWaterSewerSymposium.com

Wednesday | 2:30pm - 4pm

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

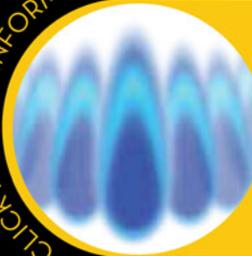


FIBER OPTIC ASSET PROTECTION

TheFiberSymposium.com

Wednesday | 2:30pm - 4pm

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION



PIPELINE SAFETY & AWARENESS

ThePipelineSymposium.com

Wednesday | 2:30pm - 4pm

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UNDERGROUND SAFETY SUMMIT: LOCATE QUALITY

TheLocatingSymposium.com

Thursday | 11:30am - 12:30pm

Sponsored by:



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CGAJan16

Choose from **60+ sessions**,
workshops, networking events
and **MORE!**

Are We Speaking the Right Language: Removing Barriers for Excavation Safety

- Michelle Petrusевич, FortisBC
- Ian Turnbull, FortisBC

Challenges associated with language barriers and multiculturalism are common across North America. The FortisBC Damage Prevention and Public Safety team partnered with a market research firm to understand the challenges contractors face when working around underground facilities.

Case Study: FBI Investigation into Locate Request Fraud

- Roger Sampson, New York 811
- Michael McMahon, Suffolk County Water Authority
- Robert Terjesen, National Grid
- Dawn Jester, One Call Concepts
- Vincent Gerardi, Federal Bureau of Investigations

This session will cover ways to identify signs of potential fraud in the utility locate system and tips for engaging the proper authorities when a potential issue is identified as well as the steps taken to prevent this type of fraud from happening in the future.

Fiber Networks Beyond the Light

- Muid Mufti, ID Technologies, Inc.
- Brent Fleury, INTUS, Inc.

This presentation describes the use of fiber optic sensors and networks in areas of public safety with implementation in conjunction with GIS. Distributed fiber sensing may be used to detect vibrations, stress, audio, leaks or explosions along a pipe or cable.



International Damage Prevention Efforts

- Bryon Sackville, PelicanCorp (moderator)
- Duane Rodgers, PelicanCorp
- Richard Broome, LineSearchBeforeYouDig
- Lori O'Doherty, ORCGA

A panel of industry experts representing Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Canada share their knowledge and experience with damage prevention around the world. Participants will gain insight and new ideas from a global perspective.



Locating Cathodically-Protected Pipes

- Jeff Ambrose Mitchell, TULE Program

A look at the basics of Cathodic Protection, what it is, how it works, and what effects it has on utility locating with a pipe and cable (EMF) locator.



Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA)

A group of eight pipeline operators came together to forge a relationship with Ag Extension Agents, a group uniquely positioned to help educate the agricultural community on pipeline safety.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs)

- Bob Williams, Surveying and Mapping, LLC

The introduction of fixed wing and rotary blade UASs will no doubt change the way land and structures are surveyed and mapped. This presentation provides a brief history, clarifies current regulatory restrictions for commercial use, and provides a glimpse into current research and potential applications of UASs.

3rd ANNUAL

Call Before You Divot Classic



**March
10th
2016**

Canyon Gate Country Club

2001 Canyon Gate Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89117

For more information call:
866-279-7755



Costs

\$150 (single) \$600 (foursome)
Mulligans available for purchase

Format

Four-man scramble/best ball

Schedule

2:00 PM shotgun start

Team Prizes

Awarded to 1st, 8th & 11th place teams

Skill Holes & Prizes

Longest drive, closest to the pin and many more

Awards Reception

Following end of play at course

Golfer 1

Golfer 2

Golfer 3

Golfer 4

Entry Form & Sponsorship Opportunities

Company Name/Individual _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount to be invoiced _____

Method of payment check credit card

- Single (\$150.00)
- Foursome (\$600.00)
- My company will sponsor a hole (\$200.00)
- My company will provide a gift card or gift (value \$50.00+)