

Update

March 2018

A Monthly Newsletter of
the Common Ground Alliance



Annual Meeting & Breakfast
2018

President's Corner

The 2018 CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo is behind us and March has come to a close. I would like to thank everyone who joined us in Phoenix and made this year's event a tremendous success! Over 1,500 attendees participated in this year's conference, with over 700 attending the Annual Meeting breakfast, making this the largest conference in CGA history! The committee meetings were also very well attended, with much discussion surrounding the future of damage prevention.

While we were in Phoenix, CGA issued its inaugural **Technology Report** detailing the state of current and emergent technologies available to the damage prevention industry. The report provides an overview of current technologies available in every sector of damage prevention, with a goal of inspiring innovation in this important area of public safety. CGA also released Best Practices 15.0 during the Annual Meeting, which is available for download [here](#). We hope to see all of you next year in **Tampa March 26-28** for another great event!

And now that spring is in the air, so is the new **Cox Utility Services 811 Hot Air Balloon!** The 2017 811 Hot Air Balloon tour was such a success that Cox Utility Services and CGA decided to continue the effort in 2018. Once again, the 811 Hot Air Balloon will travel across the country to help raise awareness about underground damage prevention. Click [here](#) to submit your request to have the 811 Hot Air Balloon at your event.

National Safe Digging Month (NSDM) officially began on April 1. We are excited to hear about your work to increase homeowners' awareness about the importance of calling 811 before starting any home improvement projects. Visit the **NSDM Toolkit** for media messages and supporting materials to help make your outreach efforts a success!

Thanks again to all of you for the work you do to prevent damage to underground infrastructure and protect those who work and live near these important assets.

Be safe,



Sarah K. Magruder Lyle
President & CEO



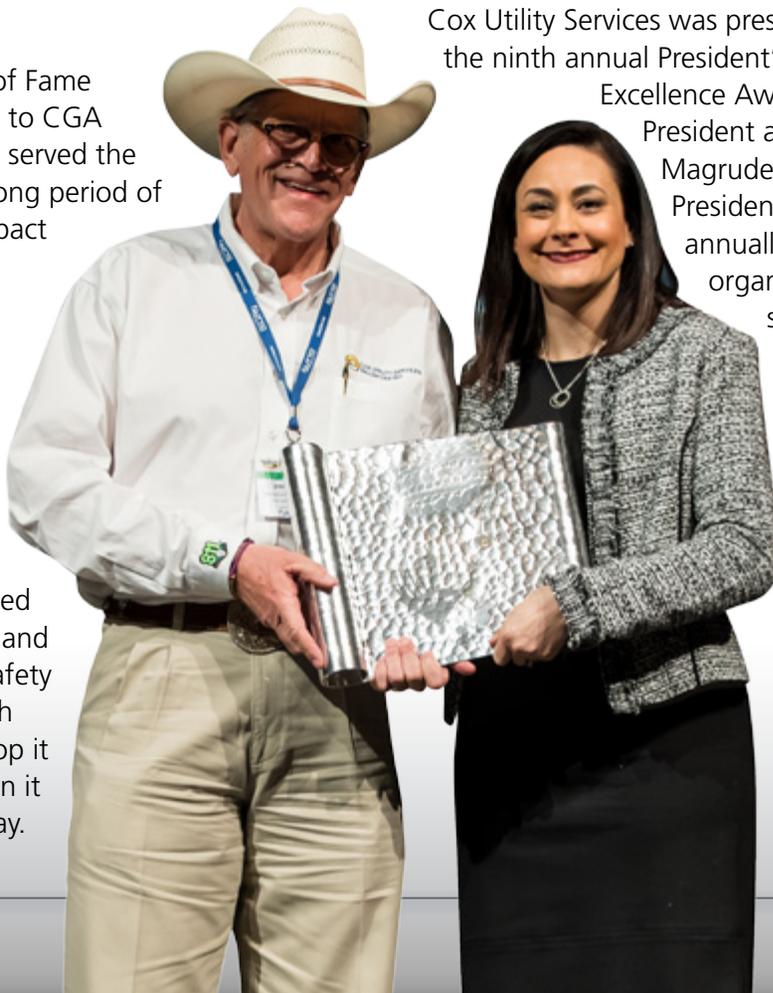
CGA 2018 Annual Meeting and Breakfast

A record 700+ damage prevention stakeholders gathered in Phoenix on March 7 for CGA's 2018 Annual Meeting and Breakfast. Thank you to all who traveled to Phoenix for the 13th Annual CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference and Expo and helped make the meeting a remarkable success.

CGA Award Recipients

Hall of Fame

Each year, the Hall of Fame designation is given to CGA members who have served the organization for a long period of time and whose impact has left its mark in a positive and memorable way. This year, CGA was honored to induct Jeff Wiese (TRC Solutions), who in his previous role at PHMSA demonstrated leadership, support and a commitment to safety that helped establish the CGA and develop it into the organization it has grown into today.



President's Corporate Excellence Award

Cox Utility Services was presented with the ninth annual President's Corporate Excellence Award by CGA President and CEO Sarah Magruder Lyle. The President's Award is given annually to a company or organization that has shown leadership and innovation in support of damage prevention during the previous year. By producing and sponsoring

Cox Utility Services' JimBob Sims accepts the President's Corporate Excellence Award from CGA's Sarah Magruder Lyle.

the pioneering 811 Hot Air Balloon's national tour in 2017, as well as two new 811 Balloons and their cross-country 2018 tour, Cox Utility Services has brought an exciting new public awareness tool to the CGA membership.

Ron Olitsky Member of the Year Award

Presented each year to a CGA member whose dedication and service to the organization went above and beyond the call of duty throughout the year, Chris Thome of Rhino Markers was presented with this year's Ron Olitsky Member of the Year Award. Chris is a tireless advocate of damage prevention efforts and strives to promote new and unique ideas like the 811 Runs and agricultural outreach campaigns to bring attention to 811 both at Minnesota's regional CGA, as well as to CGA's national Educational Programs & Marketing committee.

Jim Barron Awards

DJ Stukas and Joe Karpenske of Cox Utility Services were honored with this year's Jim Barron Awards in recognition of their dedication to efforts enhancing underground damage prevention. DJ and Joe make up the 811 Balloon Crew and literally have gone above and beyond for damage prevention as they tour the country with the eye-catching 811 Balloon.

811 Video Challenge Awards

CGA presented two awards for its 811 Video Challenge submissions at the annual meeting and breakfast, in addition to screening the



winning videos. **South Carolina 811** was a first runner-up, while **North Carolina 811** took home first place in the 2017 challenge to document 811's first ten years and predict its next decade through CGA's time capsule video challenge.

Keynote

PHMSA Administrator Howard "Skip" Elliott delivered the keynote address at the annual meeting. Mr. Elliott praised the work of the damage prevention community and ensured CGA members that PHMSA would continue working with advocates to reduce damages to buried infrastructure.



NEW 811 Hot Air Balloons in 2018

Alabama 811 won CGA and Cox Utility Services' 811 Hot Air Balloon design contest with its Shovelman balloon, which will be joined later in the year by Locateman. The new Shovelman 811 Balloon began its tour at the Call Before You Divot Classic in Phoenix. Follow Shovelman around the country through social media using #811Balloon.



Committee Recognition

CGA Committee co-chairs answered questions about their collaborative efforts towards reducing damages to underground facilities. In addition to the co-chairs listed below, special thanks go out to all

of those who serve on committees and are the driving force behind the success of CGA's core programs.

Best Practices

Brian Dreesen, *USIC*
Mark Newman, *TransCanada*

Data Reporting and Evaluation

Bruce Campbell, *Miss Dig System, Inc.*
Deanna Centurion, *Cyera Strategies*

Educational Programs

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

OCSI Committee

Kevin Hopper, *Dig Safely New York*
Misty Wise, *South Carolina 811*

Stakeholder Advocacy

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

Technology

Nick Starke, *UtiliQuest*
Thomas Young, *SeeScan*

Regional Partner

Steve Light, *Virginia 811*
Kevin Woolbright, *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission*

To those who were able to make it to Phoenix this year, thank you. Full information about the event can be found at cgaconference.com.

Get to Know Your CGA Board Member

CGA's board of directors works hard to provide strategic vision to our organization. Are you acquainted with the board member(s) representing your stakeholder group? Identify your board member(s) below and stay tuned to CGA Update for an ongoing interview series with these dedicated leaders.

Left to right: Corey Willson/3M, At Large; Massoud Tahamtani/Virginia State Corporation Commission, State Regulator; Greg Smith/Shell Pipeline, Oil, Chair; Ron McClain/Kinder Morgan, Outgoing At Large; Josh Hinrichs/ELM Companies, Locator, Secretary; Kevin Service, Verizon, Telecommunications; Annamarie Gibbs, Lockton Insurance, Insurance, Treasurer; Craig Hoferlin, Spire, Gas Distribution;

Jesus Soto Jr./Pacific Gas and Electric, Electric, Vice-Chair; Jeffery Moller/Association of American Railroads, Railroads; Sarah Magruder Lyle; Randy Douglas/Retired, Road Builder, PHMSA Administrator; Howard "Skip" Elliott; Alan Mayberry/PHMSA, At Large; Patti Lama/Retired, At Large; Kevin Hopper/Dig Safely New York, One Call; Rick Pevarski/Virginia 811, Outgoing; Mike Sullivan/Alberta One-Call Corporation, At Large.



National Safe Digging Month is Here!

NSDM kicked off this week! Were you prepared? Make sure you can check off the items on CGA's NSDM checklist below. If you haven't already, check out the [NSDM toolkit](#) on our website for media materials, infographics and much more.

NSDM Checklist:

- Customize [Omnibus press release](#)
- Plan Earth and Arbor Day events and [customize media materials](#)
- [Download infographics](#) and assign NSDM social media duties
- Schedule [NSDM web button artwork](#) to go live ASAP
- Insert [NSDM artwork](#) into email signature
- Fill out CGA's [NSDM proclamation survey](#)
- IMMEDIATE: Work on securing your [Governor's proclamation](#) of April as Safe Digging Month

In addition to [filling out our NSDM proclamation survey](#), please be sure to email photos and information about your April activities to nsdm@commongroundalliance.com so we can share them with the membership.

We're excited to see the creative new ways you'll be spreading the safe digging message this month.

CGA Named Finalist for National Safety Council's Green Cross for Safety Award

CGA is pleased to announce that the National Safety Council has named the 811 public awareness campaign a finalist for its Green Cross for Safety Advocate Award.

This awards program recognizes people and organizations for their contributions to the advancement of safety in the workplace, on the road and in homes and communities. The National Safety Council selects finalists whose work aligns with its vision of eliminating preventable deaths in our lifetime.



CGA submitted an awards entry in partnership with the American Gas Association and the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in late 2017 that highlighted the increase in public awareness for 811 during the phone number's first decade (measured by public awareness research), along with the reduction in estimated annual damages to buried utilities (as indicated by CGA's DIRT Report) by more than 50 percent.

Winners will be announced at the Green Cross for Safety Award Celebration on May 23 in Chicago. Please join us in cheering on the 811 campaign in a couple of months!

FRESH DIRT Changes in 2018

As part of our continuing series on 2018 revisions to DIRT, we discuss a new question in Part C relating to cross bores.

to other questions like date and type of event, type of work, root cause, etc.

could be considered a “near-miss” event. Making cross bore its own root cause also takes away the ability to correlate with other root causes like lack of 811 notification or failure to pothole.

The Committee decided the best solution was to add a simple YES/NO question in Part C: “Did the event involve a cross bore?” This leaves the ability to correlate with other DIRT questions such as root cause and underground damage vs. near miss, etc. DIRT Users Guide material has been written for the various scenarios by which a cross bore condition is created and/or discovered and can be found at cga-dirt.com.

With this new question, in the future we hope to be able to answer “yes” when asked if useful data regarding cross bores can be found in DIRT data.

Part C – Affected Facility Information

*What type of facility operation was affected? Natural Gas Sewer Steam Cable Television Telecommunications Electric Water Liquid Pipeline Unknown/Other

*What type of facility was affected? Distribution Gathering Service/Drop Transmission Unknown/Other

Was the facility part of a joint trench? Yes No

Did this event involve a Cross Bore? Yes No

Was facility owner One Call Center member? Yes No Unknown

If No, is facility owner exempt from One Call Center membership? Yes No Unknown

Measured Depth From Grade Embedded in concrete/asphalt pavement 18" – 36" / 46 - 91 cm <18" / 46 cm >36" / 91 cm Measured depth from grade _____ in/cm

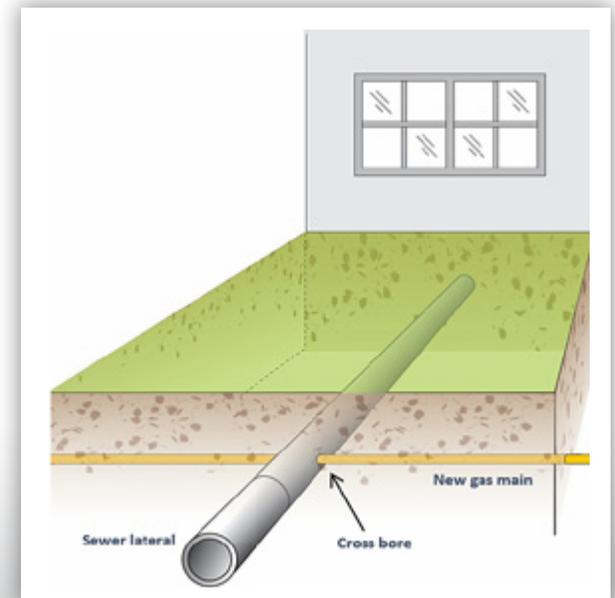
The first question is: What is the “date of event”? Is it when the condition is first created by one utility intersecting another? This may not be known at the time it occurs and may not

A cross bore occurs when one underground facility is bored through another. Although not limited to gas lines intersecting sewer lines, these are of most concern in the damage prevention industry. This situation can lead to the sewer backing up, with the gas line damaged during sewer cleaning. The sewer lateral then provides a direct path for gas migration into the building.

Industry stakeholders have asked if any useful information on cross bores can be gleaned from DIRT, but currently they are not mentioned as a question or an answer. The Data Committee decided to address this in conjunction with the DIRT makeover. The issue then became where to fit it into the DIRT form and how to relate it

be discovered until much later, for example, when sewer cleaning leads to a severe incident. Indeed, much industry focus is on finding latent cross bores before such an incident occurs. CGA's recently released Technology Report includes a case study on this topic.

The Committee first considered making a cross bore a “Type of Event” in Part B, then perhaps a Root Cause in Part I. Discussions led to the realization that it doesn't fit well in either place. As a Type of Event, the initial creation of the cross bore is an “Underground Damage” like other instances of buried facility damage. If a latent cross bore condition is discovered, through use of technology for example, it



CGA Issues Inaugural Technology Report

In conjunction with its annual Excavation Safety Conference & Expo, CGA issued its first-ever *Technology Report* detailing the state of current and emergent technologies available to the damage prevention industry in early March.

Based on responses from a survey of CGA's membership and other sources, the Technology Committee authored the inaugural version of what will become an annual report.

[Available for download on its website](#), the report provides an overview of current technologies available in every sector of damage prevention: locating, excavating, one call, imaging, pipeline data acquisition, data management and visualization, GIS/GPS/mapping, predictive analytics/risk assessment, mobile data collection, training/education and public awareness. It also identifies available technologies from other industries that could have damage prevention applications, as well as gaps in damage prevention technology, with the goal of inspiring innovation in this important area of public safety.

The report concludes with three case studies that share the successes of those deploying new damage prevention technologies:

- Gas Technology Institute: ORFEUS Obstacle Detection System for Horizontal Directional Drilling

- Gas Technology Institute: Reducing Excavation Damage in the Natural Gas Industry Using Real-Time Sensors
- Southern California Gas: Increasing Efficiencies in Pre-and Post-Inspections for Cross Bores

"Our inaugural Technology Report joins our Best Practices Guide and annual DIRT Report as an important resource in advancing our shared goal of zero damages to buried infrastructure," said CGA President Sarah K. Magruder Lyle. "Stakeholders in every facet of damage prevention can reference this new report to assess existing technologies that they may be able to apply to their particular segment of the safe digging process. The report provides technology developers with an opportunity to examine areas where there are market opportunities for new solutions, and we hope they'll work

towards developing partnerships and advanced technologies that the industry is asking for."

The Technology Committee invites all damage prevention stakeholders to read its first-ever report on the current state of damage prevention technology on the CGA website, and contribute to the next annual report via the always-open technology survey, which can also be found in the Media and Reports section of commongroundalliance.com.





Texas and New Mexico Partner to Prevent Damage

Submitted by Doug Meeks, Texas811

The Damage Prevention Councils of Texas have partnered up with New Mexico 811 to enhance outreach efforts along our common border. This partnership began when CGA Regional Partner West Texas DPC identified a spike in damages resulting from New Mexico-based excavators working construction projects in and around El Paso, Texas. A common theme identified during the incident investigations was the disparity between pipeline safety regulations in Texas and New Mexico, and apparent confusion this created with excavators. According to Sefie Anaya, New Mexico PRC Pipeline Safety Bureau (NMPRC) supervisor, a short drive often changes field compliance. "With just 40 minutes of drive time separating El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico, sometimes it may appear to be a world apart when it comes down to excavators understanding their obligations to comply with applicable regulations."

West Texas DPC members set to work planning an excavation safety day in the small town of Vinton, Texas located between El Paso and Las Cruces with the intent of providing excavation safety awareness far beyond the basic call before you dig message. Texas811 was tasked with appealing directly to New Mexican stakeholders at the annual New Mexico Regional CGA (NMRCGA) conference in Albuquerque with a presentation titled "No Borders." With New Mexico firmly on board, the West Texas event followed the typical DPCs of Texas model in that it was anchored by a pipeline rupture and emergency response demonstration, also known as a "Mock Line Strike," in a festival setting with plenty of food, door prizes and a variety of excavation safety demonstrations. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the event, Texas811 and NMPRC representatives held a Q&A session detailing the most common violations as well as similarities and sometimes significant differences between Texas and New Mexico pipeline safety regulations. According to Anaya, "The crowd really seemed to appreciate that Doug Meeks and I were able and willing to answer their important questions on the spot. I believe we will all agree the best tool out in the field is communication."

CGA Regional Partner Permian Basin DPC based in Midland, Texas, followed up the El Paso event in a show of solidarity by promoting and participating in a successful Mock Line Strike event in Artesia, N.M. The Permian Basin DPC sent representatives to assist the NMPRC in educating attendees in the similarities

and differences between Texas/New Mexico regulations in the same spirit as the El Paso event. Regional Partners South Plains DPC based in Lubbock and the High Plains DPC based in Amarillo have also committed to promoting New Mexico events to stakeholders in the Texas border counties as has New Mexico 811 committed to promote Texas events to their stakeholders.

The partnership forged between the DPCs of Texas, Texas811, New Mexico 811, the NMPRC, and the NMRCGA is the basis of many great things to come. As a result of the "No Borders" presentation at the NMRCGA conference, CGA platinum sponsor Kinder Morgan has expressed interest in doing a cross-border event partnering with New Mexico 811, NMRCGA, NMPRC and Arizona 811. Additionally, the Four Corners Damage Prevention Council invited a DPCs of Texas representative to Farmington, N.M. to share ideas as they plan an excavation safety day event in northern New Mexico with the intent of drawing attendees from New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona.

The success of the El Paso and Artesia events and enthusiastic interest in nurturing the "No Borders" concept illustrates that there is a desire for contiguous outreach anywhere in the U.S. where excavators routinely travel across state lines, and even international borders, to work. If you would like additional information on the #noborders initiative, contact Doug Meeks at dougmeeks@texas811.org. For information on the DPCs of Texas, go to dpcoftexas.com or facebook.com/dpctexas.

News Briefs

Georgia 811 secures #811HomeDepot partnership

We have exciting news: 811 and Home Depot have collaborated to share the call before you dig message on all of their tree



wraps nationwide! Georgia 811 Corporate Communications Manager Megan Estes secured the national partnership with the world's largest home improvement store in 2017 with a scheduled debut for the 2018 growing season. So next time you find yourself in Home Depot, make sure to visit the gardening department to snap a photo with our 811 tree wraps. Share your photo on social media with #811HomeDepot so we can all participate in this exciting new partnership.

Common Ground Nebraska's Excavation Safety Summit

On Feb. 21, The Common Ground Nebraska Excavation Safety Summit was held in Lincoln, Neb. The event had a record turn out from vendors and attendees, and there were several different safety-themed events that occurred throughout the summit, including keynote speaker Tony Crow, Damage Prevention Jeopardy, Damage Prevention Family Feud, a Hand Dig Battle Royale, a digging virtual reality experience and an Excavator Rodeo!

One Call Concepts partners with Paul Jr. once again

One Call Concepts, Inc. (OCC) is pleased to announce that it is once again partnering with Paul Teutul Jr. of Paul Jr. Designs for another custom-built vehicle that will continue the company's tradition of helping to educate the public about the importance of underground utility damage prevention. Paul Jr. attended the 2018 CGA Excavation Safety Conference and Expo in Phoenix, Ariz. and made a formal announcement about the new vehicle on March 6 before cutting the opening conference ribbon outside of the exhibit hall. The project is expected to be completed in April 2018, with a public unveil to follow. Construction is being filmed for planned inclusion in an episode of the Discovery Channel's "American Chopper" in July 2018.



Oregon Utility Notification Center's first Safety Excavation Summit

On Feb. 21, the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) had its first annual two-day Safety Excavation Summit! The 811 Bike and the 811 Car made an appearance at the summit to help spread the damage prevention message. Pictured is the Salem Fire Department demonstrating its response to a gas line hit during the mock pipeline strike

Texas811 works with the Railroad Commission of Texas

Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick and Texas811 CEO Chris Stovall discussed ways to continue promoting safety and damage prevention

to underground facilities at a recent meeting at the Railroad Commission of Texas. The Commission is the oldest regulatory agency in Texas and regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities and pipeline safety, among other things. Despite the name, it has nothing to do with railroads anymore! [Check out this quick video](#) produced by the Railroad Commission on the recent Texas811 Damage Prevention Summit.





Thank You

TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED THIS YEAR!



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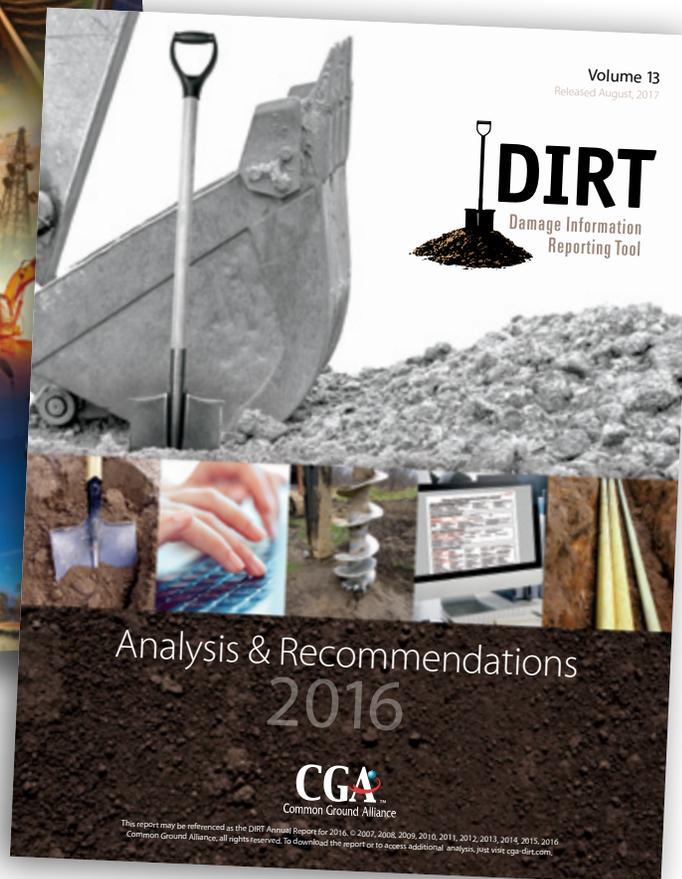
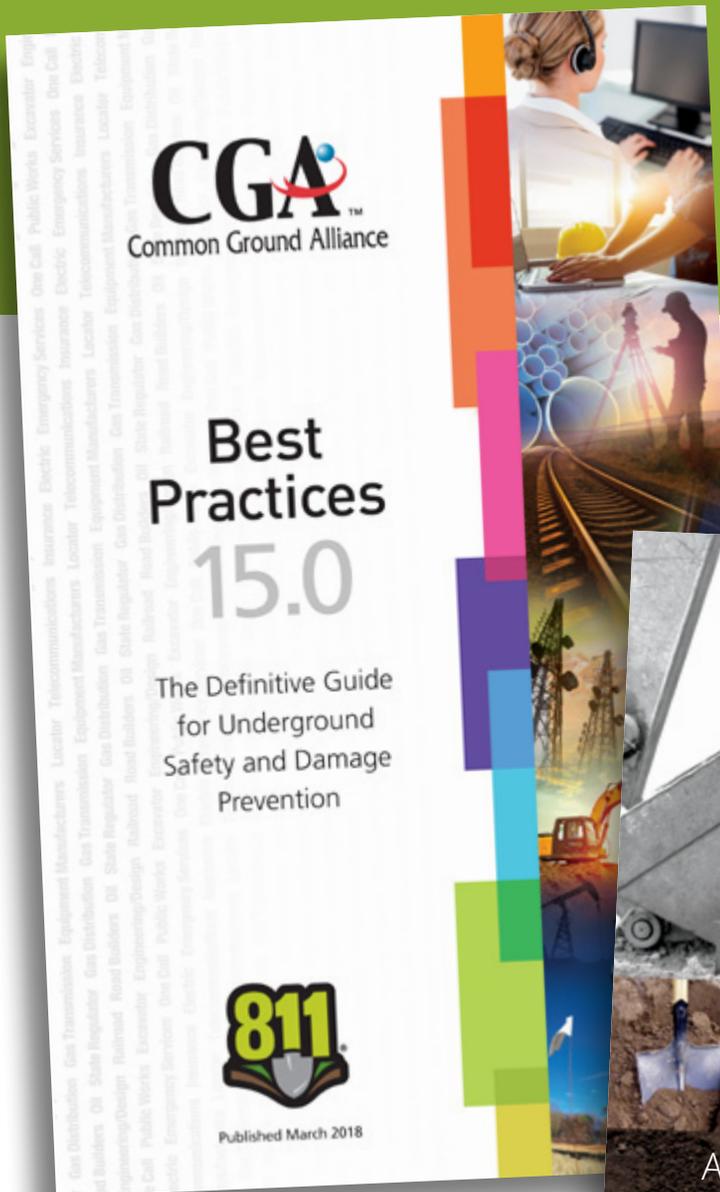
Drawing on the Power of Collaboration

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CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering

CGA Best Practices 15.0, 2016 DIRT and 811 Safety Education Videos



To get your copy of the Best Practices 15.0 [click here](#) or for DIRT [click here](#) and look for the appropriate buttons to order.



To order our videos please [click here](#).