

# Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

November 2016

*Happy Holidays*

**CGA**<sup>TM</sup>



# 811 Video Challenge Off to a Great Start

The **811 Video Challenge** launched earlier this fall, with CGA President **Bob Kipp challenging** all seven past recipients of the CGA President's Award, as well as CGA Vice Presidents Erika Lee and Khrysanne Kerr, to explain how 811 has affected them during the past 10 years.

Most of them have already accepted Bob's challenge and in turn have issued their own challenges, using the **#811videochallenge** hashtag. Their 811 Video Challenges have led to more than a dozen additional challenges, which can all be tracked in real time by clicking [here](#) and by checking out CGA's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/CGAConnect](#).

If you haven't been challenged yet, don't fret. As more CGA members accept the challenge, it will create a multiplier effect that expands the reach of this campaign that celebrates



the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 811.

The videos will be screened and awards for Best Overall Video and the Peoples' Choice Award will be announced at the 811 10th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in Orlando. Event attendees will have an opportunity to vote on the People's Choice Award.

Full rules and answers to frequently asked questions can be found at [811videochallenge.com/](#). Thank you to everyone who has participated so far and who will be participating in the weeks to come.

## Join Us on the Communications Plan Webinar and Teleconference December 14

CGA will release its seventh consecutive Communications Plan on Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. EST to guide stakeholders in their efforts to promote the 811 message and other damage prevention practices. CGA and its marketing agency, MGH, will provide an overview of the 2017 communications plan and will highlight new additions to this year's plan.

CGA's Communications Plan will feature a calendar with daily, weekly and monthly tasks, as well as artwork files, template news releases, contributed articles, social media posts and email blasts.

The plan will include new case studies from successful stakeholder campaigns in 2016, as well as returning favorites. To register for this webinar and teleconference please **click here**.



# CGA Unveils New Infographics for the 2015 DIRT Report

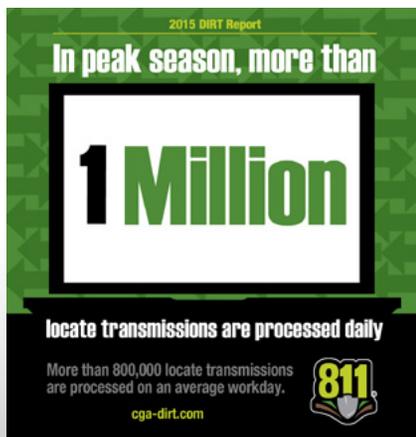
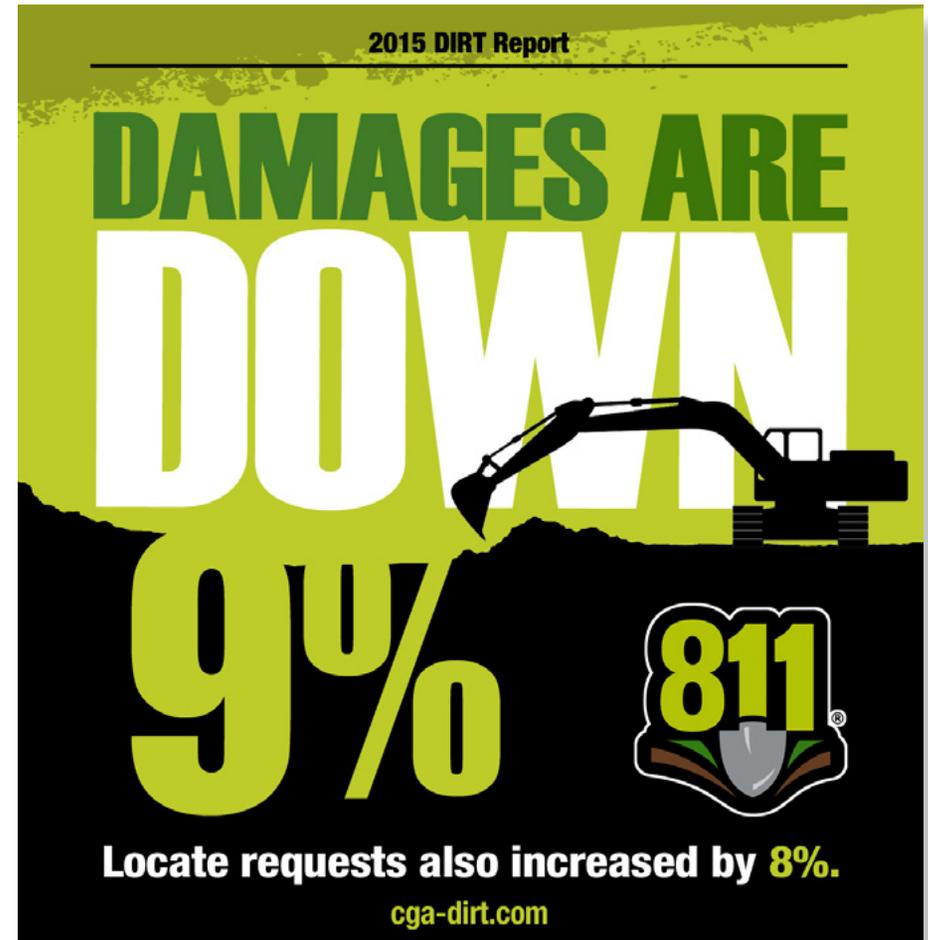
As a continuation of the release of the 2015 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report earlier this fall, CGA recently produced five infographics that help damage prevention stakeholders promote key findings from the largest collection of underground utility damage and near miss data.

Four of the graphics highlight key findings from the national data set:

- Excavation activity and awareness of 811 compared to damage rates.
- The role of 811 in preventing damages.
- Damage rates vs. one call notification rates.
- A comparison of locate request transmissions on a peak day vs. an average day.

The fifth and final infographic is designed as a template for stakeholders to create their own geographically and industry-relevant infographics using data from the new [Interactive Report](#), powered by Tableau.

To access and download these infographics, please visit the DIRT Report toolkit page on the CGA website by clicking [here](#).



# DIRT is getting a makeover!

After 10+ years of reporting experience, the Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee (DR&EC) reviewed the DIRT form to ensure it continues to provide value to damage prevention efforts.

The following significant changes have been approved by the DR&EC:

- **Data Not Collected** is eliminated throughout the form.
- **Part B** – ‘Underground Near Miss’ is added as a ‘Type of Event.’ This replaces ‘was there damage to a facility?’ in Part H. Accuracy of Latitude/Longitude is also deleted from Part B.
- **Part C** - ‘Did the Event Involve a Crossbore’ and ‘Depth of Facility’ questions are added.
- **Parts E and F** are consolidated into Notification and Locating. Questions on visibility and accuracy of marks, and which One Call Center was notified, are deleted. Questions are also added on whether the excavation activity and/or the excavator type were exempt from notification requirements, and if the work area had been white-lined.
- **Part G** – Cost of Downtime selections are consolidated.
- **Part H** is changed from ‘Description of Damage’ to ‘Interruption and Restoration’ and the injuries and fatalities questions are deleted.

Interruption duration and restoration cost selections are consolidated.

- **Part I** – Root Causes descriptions are revised for clarity and new choices added for more meaningful analysis.

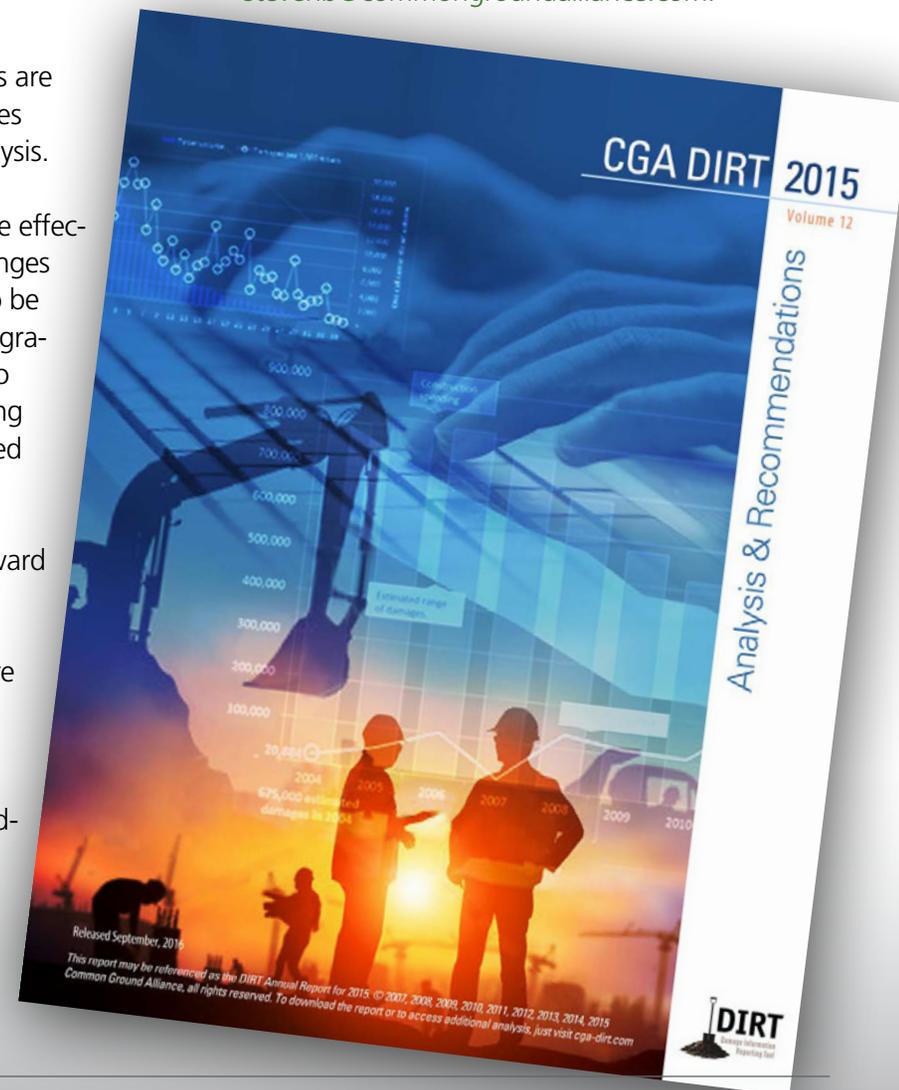
The updated DIRT form will become effective January 1, 2018. Software changes are underway and are scheduled to be ready for testing in mid-2017. A Migration Guide will be made available to assist industry IT personnel in making changes to internal systems modeled after DIRT.

The DR&EC continues to work toward implementation of the new DIRT form. Several tasks must be completed in conjunction with software changes to the form, including:

Updating the DIRT User’s Guide to define new terms and provide guidance on how to answer questions found on the new DIRT form Update the Data Quality Index (DQI), which measures completeness of data submitted, to conform to

the new DIRT form Educate DIRT submitters and all stakeholders on completing and submitting the new DIRT form.

More information will be coming in the months ahead, including webinars and a session at the annual CGA conference in March 2017. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Steve Blaney at [stevenb@commongroundalliance.com](mailto:stevenb@commongroundalliance.com).



# 100+ Attend November 3 Excavator Appreciation Event in Henderson

Over a 100 excavators, locators, regulators and utility workers attended the NRCGA's annual Excavator Appreciation Event at the Henderson Convention Center. Highlights included a BBQ dinner, raffles, and the announcement of the Silver Shovel Award winner. New this year was the NRCGA's first-ever Locator of the Year award presentation.

This year's silver shovel trophy was awarded to Byrd Underground/Ditch Diggers. In addition to Byrd, the City of North Las Vegas was also in the running for the award. The City of North Las Vegas received a plaque for outstanding performance. Both Byrd and the city were nominated for the award by the NRCGA's Silver Shovel Committee based on the number of new tickets called in by the organization and no at-fault damages between May 2015 and May 2016. Members

of the NRCGA's Board of Directors conducted in-person interviews with representatives of both organizations in October to determine the winner. Byrd also received one free trip to the Common Ground Alliance's March 2017 [Excavation Safety Conference & Expo](#) in Florida.

Justin McCarger became the NRCGA's first ever Locator of the Year and Brandon Soma received the NRCGA's first ever outstanding

performance award. Both McCarger, who resides and locates in the Reno area, and Soma, who resides and locates in southern Nevada, are employees of ELM Locating & Utility Services. Months prior to the event, the NRCGA asked eligible organizations with locate staff to submit applicants for the award. In order to be considered, a locator must have worked for the organization for at least one full year and have had zero at-fault damages between May 2015 and May 2016. Members of the NRCGA's Board of Directors held in-person interviews with the locator nominees in October to determine the winner. In addition to a silver belt buckle, McCarger also received a paid trip to Texas to participate in the 2017 [International Locate Rodeo](#).

To determine the 2017 Locator of the Year, the NRCGA has begun planning the first annual Nevada locate rodeo. For more information on the Nevada locate rodeo, attend the [NRCGA's monthly meetings](#) or email [info@nrcga.org](mailto:info@nrcga.org).

Buddy and Tyler Byrd accept the Silver Shovel Award.



Excavators and locators enjoy the event.



Brandon Soma, left, and Justin McCarger. McCarger is 2016 Locator of the Year.

# Landon Bisson Recognized with NC811's Safety Community Service Award

NC811 recognizes young adults from organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, etc., for considering safe digging practices when they conduct a community service project.

The award is earned by completing a project where digging will take place and a call is made to 811 to have the underground utilities located.

Once the project is completed, an application is submitted for consideration along with a copy of the locate ticket from calling 811. Striking a utility line while digging can lead to injury, penalties, repair costs, and inconvenient outages. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Landon Bisson is a Junior at North Lincoln High School and a member of BSA Troop-84 located in Denver, N.C. In early April of 2016, Landon began his project, after giving thought to a service project in hopes of reaching his goal of Eagle Scout. Landon chose a project that would be meaningful to his community, his former elementary School, Rock Springs Elementary. After calling 811 to locate underground utilities, Landon coordinated a landscaping project of planting trees, including a tree in honor of a student



who had passed away, and erecting "buddy benches" which is a way to combat bullying. The idea of the buddy bench is for students

who are feeling bullied in any way, sits on this bench, which shows other students a need for friendship without having to say anything. Mr. Bisson is the third recipient of the safety community service award in North Carolina.

On Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, NC811 presented a safety community service award package that included a service award ribbon for his troop, service award patches to those that volunteered and a service award marker to be placed at the project location to highlight their commitment to damage prevention along with his scoutmaster that awarded Landon his Eagle Scout. "The goal of the NC811 Safety Community Service Award is to distinguish dedicated young men and women for their diligence in safely completing community projects by digging safely. This is truly the type of Excavator that NC811 is looking for: The commitment to making the Call to 811, Waiting the required time, Respecting the Marks, and Digging Safely," stated Ann Rushing-NC811 Education Manager. To be considered for a Safety Community Service Award, [www.nc811.org/](http://www.nc811.org/)

## About NC811

Since 1978 North Carolina 811 has provided you a fast and easy communications link with your local utility providers. You give us information about your excavation, we transmit the information to the utilities and then they send out locators to mark your underground lines for FREE. So remember, call 811 or 1-800-632-4949 three working days before you plan on digging.

# News Briefs

## Colorado 811 Welcomes New Four-Legged Ambassador

Colorado 811 welcomed the newest team member to their organization, a furry-four legged damage prevention pup named Tillie! Colorado 811 CEO, J.D. Maniscalco named her Tillie because she loved to dig or till in the backyard and hide her bone, but she always calls 811 before she starts her digging projects.

Tillie was adopted from the Boulder County Human Society and has become Colorado 811's newest mascot. She loves to make



rounds in the office and get pets and treats from CO 811's damage prevention agents. She attends public awareness events throughout the Denver Metro area.

Tillie is her name and damage prevention is her game!

## Successful Regional Conferences Held

Indiana 811 and Kentucky 811 hosted the fourth annual Midwest Damage Prevention Training Conference in November, welcoming nearly 500 damage prevention training professionals to the French Lick Resort in French Lick, Ind., for a sold-out event. The conference featured a keynote speech about reducing human error by Shane Bush and networking events including horseback riding, a turkey shoot and golf. Additionally, the conference's first-ever scholarship program, made possible by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, provided free two-night registration packages to more than 100 first-time attendees from Indiana.

Miss Utility of MD/DC and Miss Utility of Delmarva Host Annual Regional Conference  
Miss Utility of Maryland/D.C. and Miss Utility of Delmarva hosted the eighth annual

Colorado 811 Executive Director J.D. Maniscalco and Tillie the 811 Dog.

Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference in October in Ocean City, Md., offering educational sessions and networking events for the region's damage prevention professionals. With a record attendance of more than 380 attendees, the conference's highlights included One Call Concepts' and Paul Jr. Designs' unveil of the brand-new 811 Car and the hit session, "JJ's Restaurant Explosion: A Case Study," first presented at the 2016 CGA Conference and Annual Meeting.



## Lone Star 811 at the Track

Lone Star 811 made a pit stop over the weekend of November 5th-6th at the Texas Motor Speedway to spread the "call before you dig" message!



## 811 Car Unveiled

The crowd went wild on Oct. 19 as they got their first glimpse of the 811 Car! Lasers, fireworks, and smoke announced the Corvette's arrival as Paul Jr. Designs revved its engine into the tent. The unveiling of this incredible machine was a proud moment in One Call Concepts, Inc.'s history. OCC looks forward to the many future opportunities to use this unique tool to spread the 811 message!



## Washington Gas and Partners Prevent Damage Near Polling Centers

The Washington Gas Damage prevention department worked with contract locator UtiliQuest and VA 811 to identify 170 locate (811) tickets called in for excavation within 1000 of a polling place on Election Day, Nov. 8, 2016.

Washington Gas worked collaboratively with the stakeholders in damage prevention to limit the risk of a polling station being "out of service" on election day, due to a damage.

The damage prevention department at Washington Gas sent a letter notifying the excavators of the importance of excavating with CARE at these sites, particularly on Election Day.

In addition to the letters, Washington Gas visited these sites in the CARE-A-VAN (damage prevention outreach vehicle) looking for opportunities to interact with excavators in the vicinity.

## New York 811 Reaches Long Island Water Utility Workers at Event

On Oct. 25, Roger Sampson, Executive Director NY 811, spoke to the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissions Association in Levittown, New York about how New York 811 and code 753 affect their water districts.



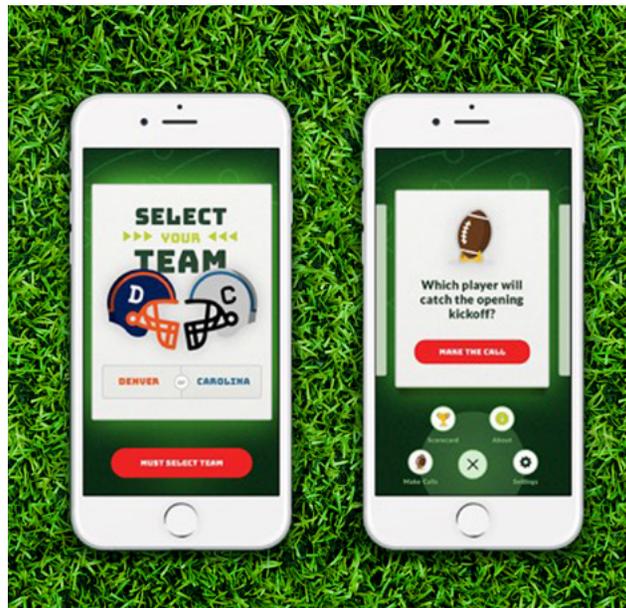
# Utilizing Technology & Football to Reach New Audiences

By: Amber Howard, Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC have partnered to create an interactive, educational app that targets football fans and promotes pipeline safety messaging.

The innovative app titled “Make the Call at the Big Game” will launch in early 2017 and will be centered around the “Big Game”, to be played in Houston, Texas, on February 5th. Participants who download and participate in the app will be prompted to answer questions about the Big Game, such as “Which player will catch the opening kick-off?” and “How many yards will the opening punt be returned?” After responding to the questions, participants are presented with pipeline safety messages, and will be entered into a competition to win a grand prize. The app will be available online, in the Apple Store, and in Google Play for both tablet and phone devices.

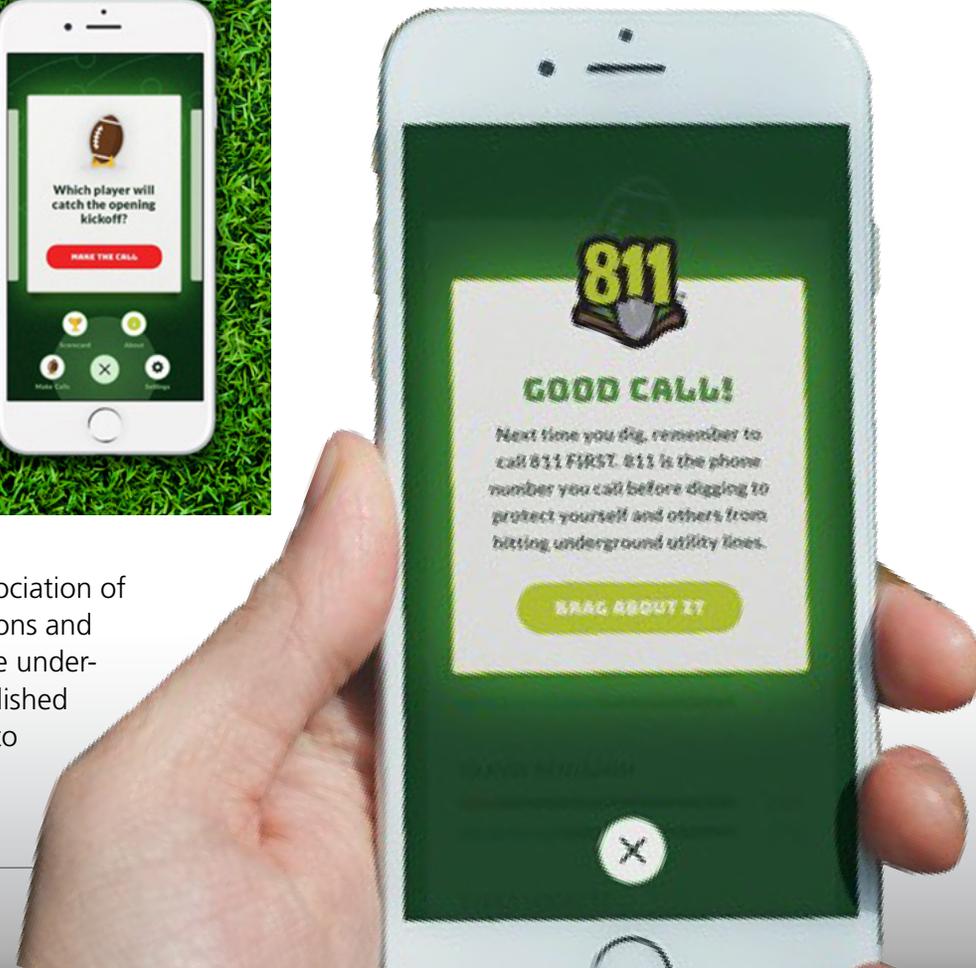
“This joint project is a great example of how companies can and should leverage their partnership with the Common Ground Alliance,” said Bob Kipp, President of Common Ground Alliance. “We are excited to be a part of this innovative app aimed at promoting pipeline safety in a fun and educational way.”



CGA is a member-driven association of 1,700 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground in-

frastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. For more information, visit <http://commongroundalliance.com/>.

Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC manages more than 18,000 miles of strategically placed crude oil, raw NGL, LPG, natural gas and petroleum products pipeline systems across the United States. Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC makes safety our highest priority. We value the relationships we've cultivated in the communities where we work and live. We know you expect us to operate safely – and we do. For additional information, please [Click Here](#).





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### Session topics include:

*Outer Space Damage Prevention to Underwater Asset Protection:  
We got ya covered!*

*Ed Landgraf, Coastal and Marine Operators (CAMO)  
Dave Weaver, Satelytics*

*Using Mapping Technology to Optimize Infrastructure Locating*

*Derek Rieckmann, Midcontinent Communications*

*Manage Every Ticket Every Day:  
A Damage Prevention Program from the Facility Owners Point of View*

*Jeb French, Xcel Energy  
Brad Vitale, Xcel Energy*

*Trench Safety Hazard Awareness and Protective Systems*

*Joe Wise, United Rentals, Trench Safety Division*

*Changing of the Guards:  
Industry View from Newly Minted One Call Executive Directors*

*Louis Panzer, North Carolina 811      Paul Huntsman, Blue Stakes of Utah  
Misty Wise, South Carolina 811      Kevin Hopper, Dig Safely New York*

Early bird registration ends **December 16, 2016**. Register today!

Visit our website to view additional session topics. New sessions added regularly.

[CGAconference.com](http://CGAconference.com) | 866.279.7755



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## 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.



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