

# Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

November 2018



**2019 CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo**  
**CGA Award Nominations**

# Nominate a Damage Prevention Advocate for a CGA Award!

Common Ground Alliance established an awards program to celebrate the successes of our members as well as those in the larger damage prevention community. Since that time, the CGA has recognized many individuals who have demonstrated great dedication to damage prevention.

The CGA presents three awards annually at the CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo: the *Ron Olitsky Award*, *Jim Barron Award* and *Hall of Fame* designation. The awards are presented each year during our Annual Meeting. In addition, the President annually selects a company to receive the CGA President's Award.

## Award Selection Process

Nominations are accepted for the *Ron Olitsky*, *Jim Barron* and *Hall of Fame* awards during December and January of each year. The [nomination form](#) is now available on the CGA website so that CGA members can submit nominations. Nominations will be accepted in the form of an approximately

250-word narrative explaining the reason the nominee should receive the award. Please review the criteria for each award and ensure you have addressed in the narrative.

An Award Selection Subcommittee of the CGA working committees and Board members will evaluate and discuss the nominations prior to naming the honorees. We look forward to honoring the winners at the **CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo** in Tampa, Fla., on March 27 as part of our Annual Meeting and Breakfast. See you there!

For more about the [CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo](#), be sure to check out the December edition of CGA Update.





## Take the Tech Committee Survey Today

*Do you work with damage prevention technologies that could help others across the industry? Or have you identified a technological gap that the industry needs to bridge?*

CGA's Technology Committee plans to issue its second annual Technology Report in 2019. The new report will provide a summary of key technology improvements the industry could adopt and technology challenges for the industry to solve, including a focus on the leading causes of damages as identified by the annual CGA DIRT Report.

The recommendations in the CGA Technology Report will also help inform and enhance CGA's Best Practices. To assist the committee with this inaugural endeavor, please take a few moments to fill out the [Technology Collection Form](#) today!

# Last chance to submit to the 811 Video Challenge 2018!

**The 811 Video Challenge is back for the third consecutive year, with a new twist.**

This year, we're asking CGA members to submit either a newly created or [existing short video](#) (around 60 seconds in length). Entries may be public service announcements, social media videos or other great digital video content.

Submitted videos must feature references to 811 but may also focus on other core CGA programs (Best Practices, DIRT Report, Technology Report, etc.).

Be sure to submit before the upcoming deadline! This year's challenge will remain open until Friday, Dec. 21.

Bragging rights within the industry are on the line. A CGA task team will show select videos and announce the

award winners at the [CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo](#) in Tampa, Fla., in March 2019.

Full information, including official rules and music licensing requirements, may be found at [811VideoChallenge.com](#).



# FRESH DIRT

## Changes in 2018

DIRT Reports and Dashboards use a variety of terms including: damages, near-misses, events and known data. The “estimate of U.S. damages” adds another layer of complexity. Finally, the 2017 DIRT Report introduced a few new terms: unique events and consistently reporting stakeholders. Each term has a specific meaning. When comparing or reconciling DIRT statistics, it’s important to be sure you’re comparing apples-to-apples.

If you click on the question mark at the top right of the DIRT Dashboard (<http://common-groundalliance.com/dirt-dashboard>) you’ll find a definition of most of these terms, but here we provide guidance on what to keep in mind when applying them to DIRT data.

**Damage:** Near misses are filtered out.

**Near miss:** Damages are filtered out.

**Event:** Damages plus near misses.

**Known Data:** *Unknown/other and data not collected* are filtered out, leaving behind choices that are useful to data analysis, such as a specific root cause, type of excavator or work performed, etc.

**Estimate of U.S. damages:** Realizing that more damages occur than are entered into DIRT, this extrapolates from data that is entered in DIRT to produce an estimate of total damages in the U.S. *Near misses* are not included. Canada is also not included, whereas for other terms it is, unless specifically noted. Appendix A of the 2017 DIRT Report provides an explanation of how this extrapolation is performed.

**Consistently reporting stakeholders:** A subset of the total data set consisting of data from entities reported into DIRT for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

**Reported:** When used before *damages, near misses or events*, it means actually reported into DIRT, as opposed to being an extrapolated estimate.

**Unique:** When used before *damages, near misses or events*, it means after identifying and consolidating multiple reports of the same event.

See the [2015 DIRT Report](#) for a description of the method used to match and weight multiple reports of the same event. Also see the [May 2016](#) and [July 2016](#) Monthly Updates. Note: The 2015 and 2016 DIRT Reports used *weighted* rather than *unique*, but they mean the same thing.

The path from *reported damages* to the U.S. estimate is:

409,790 damages + 2,077 near misses reported (U.S. & Canada)

316,442 unique damages + 1,588 unique near misses (U.S. & Canada)

439,000 estimated damages extrapolated from unique damages (U.S. only)



Total unique damages  
316,442

The DIRT Dashboard focuses on the 316,442 unique damages.

# News Briefs

## New York's new 811 education law

On Nov. 5, N.Y. Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed landmark legislation, an amendment to 16 NYCRR Part 753, that will work to further protect the state's excavators, utilities, families and communities from the hazards associated to excavation-related accidents. This law provides that any local government or operator that contracts for excavation must ensure that the excavator has completed an approved training and education program. Under this law, Dig



Safely New York's (DSNY) Certified Excavator Program (CEP), a Public Service Commission-approved program, fulfills the training and education requirement, providing increased public safety and utility protection.

DSNY is excited to share this update, as this landmark legislation will enhance the safety of New York state, work to protect the families who call it home and enhance educational resources for industry professionals.

## UGI supports Veteran's Day Parade

Members of the UGI Utilities Pipeline & Public Safety Team took part in the Wyoming Valley Veteran's Day Parade in Wilkes Barre, Pa., on Nov. 11. Jordan Partlow, Pipeline Safety Administrator (U.S. Army Ret.) and Janet Stochla, daughter of U.S. Army Master Sergeant, Joseph J. Stochla, tied the 811 message in with a bunch of red, white and

blue on the pickup tandem they made parade-ready. A great crowd braved the coldest weather of the season to honor our veterans, and Janet and Jordan spread the critical safety message of calling 811 while thanking the veterans who served and sacrificed.



## 10th Annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference

Submitted by Dora Parks, Miss Utility/District One Call

For the tenth consecutive year, hundreds of damage prevention professionals gathered in Ocean City, Md., for the 2018 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC), hosted by title sponsors **Miss Utility**, **District One Call** and **Miss Utility of Delmarva**.

The sold-out event – with more than 400 registrants – was the collaborative effort of partners across the Greater Chesapeake region, including 36 sponsor organizations and more than 40 exhibitors. The conference kicked off with a keynote speech from Bob White, who engaged the audience about how to communicate across generations and motivate employees. Breakout sessions addressed topics such as how to adhere to the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health office's guidelines on trenching following a particularly deadly summer in

the region, how utility and municipal workers are uniquely suited to keeping an eye out for terroristic activity, and the latest offerings in predictive damage prevention analytics technology. Sessions also took a deep dive into case studies straight from the industry, including a project showcase of Chesapeake Utilities' effort to bring natural gas to the Eastern Shore, and a mock trial of a case that came before the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority. CGA's Sarah Magruder Lyle and Khrysanne Kerr presented information about 2017 DIRT data specific to our region, 811 promotional activities that regional partners supported over the summer, and updates from the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Many attendees participated in the conference's multiple networking events, including the annual cornhole and golf tournaments, as well as a new addition – a cooking class



with an authentic Italian chef. All conference attendees were also invited to enjoy a special reception celebrating a decade of the GCDPTC, which featured dinner, drinks and dancing. Outside of the sold-out exhibit hall were the 811 Bike, 811 Car and 811 Trike, courtesy of One Call Concepts. The conference also honored some of the safest contractors in Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C., for the 2017-2018 Dig Smart Awards, including: **NPL**, *Excellence Award Winner*; **Ferguson Trenching Co.**, *Maryland Winner*; **Childs Landscape Contractors, Inc.**, *Washington, D.C. Winner*; **B.W. Electric, Inc.**, *Delmarva Winner*; and **Gaines and Company**, *Honorable Mention Recipient*.

Visit [missutilityconference.com](http://missutilityconference.com) to view photos, download session presentations and see the sponsors and exhibitors whose support made the 10th Annual GCDPTC possible. Save the date for the 2019 GCDPTC, which will take place Oct. 22-25 in Ocean City, Md.





# Zero Damages. Reaching the Goal Together.

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A black and white photograph showing various construction equipment like excavators and pipes on a job site. In the foreground, a worker wearing a hard hat is visible. The background shows more industrial structures and trees.

"There [are] just so many things to see, so many people to visit with, so many great sessions. I would totally recommend this conference to anybody."

- Andrea Stainback, CenturyLink, 7-time attendee



A black and white photograph of a worker in a hard hat standing near a utility pole on a street. Large pipes are stacked on the right side of the frame. The background shows a road and some trees.

94% of surveyed attendees stated that information obtained will help them implement change at work.

Register Today & SAVE!  
[CGAconference.com](http://CGAconference.com) | 866.279.7755

March 26-28, 2019 | Tampa  
Owned and Produced by Infrastructure Resources, LLC

# CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering



# CGA Best Practices 15.0, 2017 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](#).