

Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

11
19



Night of Networking is in the Air!

Be a Part of History

night of networking EVENT

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 6-10 p.m.

Urbint®

Title Sponsor



Primary Hospitality Sponsor



Main Stage Sponsor



Karaoke Sponsor



Memory Maker Sponsor



Networking Sponsor



Hoops Sponsors

Supporting Sponsors



Be a part of history at CGA's 2020 Night of Networking

CGA invites you to experience the history of flight, grab a bite and be a part of damage prevention's biggest night!

CGA's Night of Networking event will take place on Wednesday, March 25 from 6-10 p.m. during the 2020 CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo in Palm Springs, Calif. Join more than 1,000 of your industry peers at Southern California's ultimate attraction: The Palm Springs Air Museum.

The Palm Springs Air Museum is a living history museum dedicated to educating the public about the role air power played in preserving American liberties and way

of life. The museum preserves, exhibits and flies aircraft from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Most of the aircraft are in flyable condition.

CGA's Night of Networking has sold out every year since its inception. The focus of the event will be to recognize sponsors and enable networking opportunities among CGA members. Throughout the night, key damage prevention initiatives will be highlighted, and attendees will have the opportunity

to win prizes through drawings. Volunteer docents – most of whom are veterans – will be on-hand to provide information on the museum's aircraft.

Full conference attendees are automatically registered for CGA's Night of Networking, and transportation will be provided. If you haven't yet registered for the 2020 CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo, visit cgaconference.com, where you can also purchase additional tickets for CGA's Night of Networking.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities to support Night of Networking are available. To learn more about how your organization can support Night of Networking by becoming a sponsor, please contact Khrysanne Kerr at kerr@com-mongroundalliance.com. All sponsorship revenue directly supports CGA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

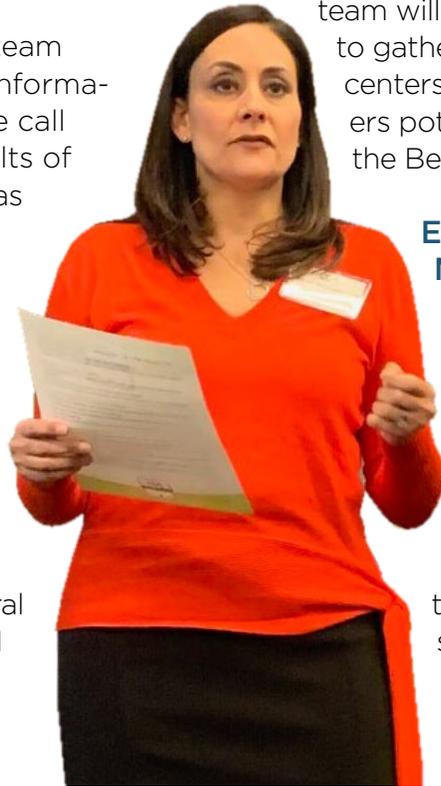


Highlights from the All-CGA Committee Meetings in Nashville

More than 120 CGA members convened in Nashville from Nov. 18-21 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel for the All-CGA Committee Meetings. It was a successful week full of productive committee meetings, networking opportunities and the first general session breakfast. Read on for meeting highlights from each CGA committee.

OCSI

The OCSI Data Collection team that annually collects key information and statistics from one call centers presented the results of a feedback survey, as well as recommendations for the data collection effort moving forward. The Disaster Response task team continues to encourage one call centers to submit resources, materials and practices that are currently in use to streamline communication and ensure safe digging following natural disasters. In addition, the 811 Center Benchmarking task



team will move forward with a survey to gather key metrics that notification centers are using as the team considers potential updates to Chapter 3 of the Best Practices.

Educational Programs & Marketing

The Educational Programs & Marketing Committee reviewed task team efforts, including the development of a “visor card” that focuses on the excavation chapter of Best Practices. In addition, the committee plans to execute a DIRT awareness survey of the excavator community and execute a collab-

orative effort for 2020 CONEXPO. The committee will also review options for incident response communications regarding restoration after fires and other natural disasters to add to the current hurricane response toolkit.

Data Reporting & Evaluation

The Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee discussed the analysis conducted by the DIRT Report consultant on alternative metrics to damages-per-one-call-ticket-transmissions and next steps in the research; reviewed several potential revisions to the DIRT form; explored options for roundtables, focus groups or other methods for engaging a broader group of stakeholders as part of the data analysis and reporting process; conducted breakout sessions focused on specific stakeholder groups to discuss DIRT issues of concern; and discussed how to work jointly with the Educational Programs & Marketing Committee’s new DIRT Task Team.

Stakeholder Outreach

The Stakeholder Outreach Committee welcomed presenters on stakeholder outreach topics, including a presentation from Tennessee 811’s Bill Turner about the enforcement program in Tennessee and data collected at the state level; an update from Ashley Donnini on the information NiSource considers to help the company inform projects on their system; and a report from Pennsylvania 811’s Bill



Kiger on the implementation of Coordinate PA, which enables data sharing on large excavation projects across utilities.

Best Practices

The Best Practices and Technology Committees held a joint opening session and a series of breakout sessions targeting specific topics, transaction records (TRs) and proposed practices. During the breakout sessions, wording for both TR-2018-01, Communicate Potential for Privately-Owned Facilities, and TR 2019-01, Tolerance Zone Definition, was agreed upon and will be presented to the full committee for approval consideration. The wording will now be posted for 30-day committee review and will be voted on during a Best Practices Committee teleconference on Jan. 16. The Abandoned Lines working group met to review

survey feedback and research conducted on practices currently in place to address abandoned facilities. In addition, the Best Practices committee agreed to establish a new transaction record, TR-2019-02, Electronic RFID, to be chaired by Dennis Jarnecke.

Technology

During a breakout session, the Technology Committee identified several Best Practices with technology components that the committee will review for revision proposal consideration. The committee identified potential topics for future webinars and case studies to include in the next annual report and considered updates to the Technology Collection Form. The committee identified task team chairs for the following: Annual Technology Report, Technology Campaign/Marketing, Webinars and Best Practices review.

Introducing the 2020 CGA Public Awareness Plan

CGA is getting ready to kick off the new year with the upcoming launch of the 2020 CGA Public Awareness Plan, previously known as the annual Communications Plan. In addition to the new name – which is intended to better reflect the wide variety of resources the plan contains – the 2020 Public Awareness Plan will feature some brand-new tools that CGA members can use to reach target stakeholders.

The reorganized and rebranded plan will still include the same resources that previous plans have featured, including evergreen social media and news media outreach tools that can be used throughout the year, case studies from successful stakeholder campaigns, and campaign-specific tools for key times of the year for public awareness outreach, including National Safe Digging Month, Earth Day, 8/11 Day and more.

If you haven't already, click [here](#) to register for the 2020 CGA Public Awareness Plan launch webinar, which will take place Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. EST. We look forward to introducing the new plan to CGA members!

DIRT File: Why are damages per 1,000 one call tickets leveling off?

By Steven Blaney, DIRT Program Manager

The recently released **2018 DIRT Report** indicates that the ratio of damages per 1,000 one call ticket transmissions has leveled off in recent years. A few examples of why the denominator in this metric can fluctuate are discussed on page 16 of the report. Let's set that aside for a moment and examine the effects of a change in year-to-year behavior of a pair of excavators.

As lower is better, to improve we must decrease the numerator and/or increase the denominator.

Assume Excavator #1 (the data in gray in the table on the right) matches the profile of the early years of DIRT when damages due to lack of notification made up about half of all damages. The excavator does 1,200 excavation projects in a year, but does not notify 811 for 200 projects, and has four "no-notice" damages and four from other causes. Overall, the excavator's contributed eight damages and 1,000 tickets to the damages per ticket metric. The following year, the excavator cuts damages in half, such that it fits the current profile where no notification damages are about a

quarter of total damages. The excavator calls in 150 more tickets (not yet 100% of their projects), contributing four damages and 1,150 one call tickets.

Contrast this with Excavator #2 (the data in blue in the table below), which also does 1,200 projects in a year but has always provided notice. Excavator #2 also has eight damages in year one, but all are due to locating or excavating issues. Excavator #2 also cuts its damages by half in the second year. However, the excavator has not increased the number of one call tickets.

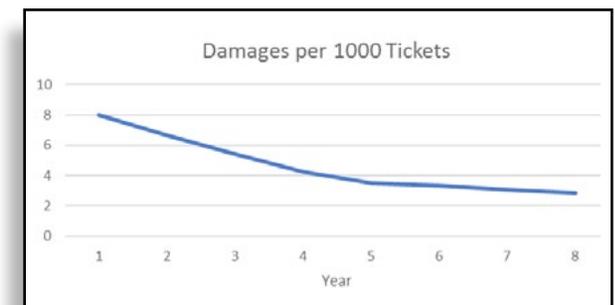
The table below shows the impacts on the damages per 1,000 tickets metric. Excavator #1 had a greater impact because it affected the numerator and denominator, whereas Excavator #2 affected only the numerator.

| Year | Damages Due to: | | One Call Tickets | Damages per 1000 Tickets | Δ |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | No 811 Notice | Excavating/Locating | | | |
| 1 | 4 | 4 | 1000 | 8 | |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 1150 | 3.48 | -4.52 |
| 1 | 0 | 8 | 1200 | 6.67 | |
| 2 | 0 | 4 | 1200 | 3.33 | -3.33 |

The table and graph below demonstrate the effect over a longer time period. In this example, the current root cause profile and 50% reduction in damages are reached in year five, after which the rate of decline levels off. One call tickets increase each year due to a combination of improved compliance and growth in work volume, although it's difficult to parse the contribution of each factor.

Multiply this by thousands of excavators, and it generally mirrors what we've seen in DIRT data over the years. As "call before you dig" awareness increased and states ramped up enforcement, the no notification damages were "low hanging fruit" that declined fastest while also increasing ticket volume.

| Year | Damages Due to: | | One Call Tickets | Damages per 1000 tickets | Δ |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | No 811 Notice | Excavating/Locating | | | |
| 1 | 4 | 4 | 1000 | 8 | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 1050 | 6.67 | -1.33 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 1100 | 5.45 | -1.21 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 1175 | 4.26 | -1.20 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 1150 | 3.48 | -0.78 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 1200 | 3.33 | -0.14 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 1300 | 3.08 | -0.26 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 1400 | 2.86 | -0.22 |





This fall, Regional Partners across the country hosted damage prevention training conferences and events. Read on to hear about events that took place in Maryland and Indiana.

Over 400 industry professionals attend 11th annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference in Ocean City

For the 11th consecutive year, hundreds of damage prevention professionals gathered at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Md., for the **2019 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference** (GCDPTC), hosted by title sponsors Miss Utility/District One Call and Miss Utility of Delmarva.

The conference, which had more than 400 registrants, was the collaborative effort of partners across the Greater Chesapeake region, including 39 sponsor or-

ganizations and more than 40 exhibitors. The conference kicked off with a keynote speech from Gary Norland, who engaged the audience about how using shortcuts on the jobsite and forgoing safety can cause devastating consequences. Break-out session topics included a stakeholder project showcase on the ambitious Purple Line project, which will use 16.2 miles of light rail to connect the Red, Green and Orange lines of the Washington Metro outside of the city center and will also connect to the MARC Train; a national pipeline perspective from the American Gas Association about efforts that impact stakeholders in the region; and the importance of electric and natural gas safety through interactive demonstrations.



Many attendees participated in the conference's multiple networking events, including the annual cornhole and golf tournaments, as well as the second annual cooking class with an authentic Italian chef. Through generous donations at the cornhole tournament and a 50/50 raffle,

GCDPTC attendees and sponsors raised a total of \$2,539 for **Construction Angels**, which provides assistance to families who have lost a loved one as a result of a work-related accident.

The conference also honored some of the safest contractors in Maryland and Washington, D.C., for the 2018-2019 Dig Smart Awards, including: NPL, Excellence Award Winner; Gaines and Company, Maryland Winner; and Anchor Construction Corp., Washington, D.C. Winner. The GCDPTC's first-ever "\$811 Dig for Cash" game - where two lucky attendees had the opportunity to dig for money and got to take home all the cash they could scoop up and carry in 30 seconds - closed out the conference during grand door prizes, making for a very memorable final day.

Save the date for next year's conference! The GCDPTC will return to Ocean City, Md., from Oct. 27-30, 2020.

- By Dora Parks, Miss Utility of Maryland/District One Call



Indiana and Kentucky 811 celebrate damage prevention 'lifesavers' at annual regional conference

In early November, nearly 600 facility operators, locators, excavators, regulators, emergency responders and more traveled to French Lick, Ind., to attend the largest-ever Midwest Damage Prevention Training Conference (MWDPTC). The record-breaking 2019 MWDPTC included a sold-out exhibit hall, two distinguished featured speakers, a roster of cutting-edge educational training sessions featuring speakers from the Midwest and beyond, and multiple networking opportunities, including the annual golf tournament, horseback ride through the idyllic hills of southern Indiana and the turkey shoot at Lost River Game Farm.



With the theme, “Be a Damage Prevention Lifesaver,” the 2019 MWDPTC emphasized the industry’s commitment to safety and honored the lifesaving work

performed by damage prevention professionals every day. In accordance with the theme, the conference kicked off with a festive, tropical Welcome Reception Luau and conference materials featured a nautical-themed life preserver logo.

This year’s impressive lineup of training sessions further equipped damage prevention lifesavers with the resources and tools needed to ensure top-notch performance in the field. Industry experts led sessions that explored cross bore prevention, unlocatable gas facility repair, how to protect infrastructure from terrorist threats, incident response planning, water main break mitigation and more.

Attendees also heard from two renowned featured speakers – Richard Picciotto, former New York City Fire Department Battalion Chief and the highest-ranked firefighter to survive the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and certified safety professional and speaker David Sarkus. Both moving and motivational speeches reinforced the importance of safety and leadership in damage prevention and incident response.

The 2020 MWDPTC will return to the French Lick Resort in French Lick, Ind., Nov. 11-13. A full recap and photographs from the 2019 MWDPTC will be posted soon at Midwest811Conference.com.

- By Mary Patricia Kindt, Indiana and Kentucky 811

CGA Technology Spotlight: Coordinate PA

As part of the Technology Committee’s webinar series highlighting technology in damage prevention, Pennsylvania 811’s Marcos Bernal recently provided an overview of “Coordinate PA: The Next Generation of Utility Coordination.” The new technology spotlighted in the webinar enables data sharing on large excavation projects to increase coordination and decrease potential risk due to gaps in communication. The same technology allows excavators to efficiently schedule and communicate complex projects to assist in eliminating multiple service disruptions during the life of a project.

If you weren’t able to attend Pennsylvania 811’s webinar, [click here](#) to download the recording. There, you’ll find additional webinars available for download, covering a range of damage prevention topics and highlighting key program initiatives.



Pennsylvania811

News Briefs

Dig Safely New York receives simulator from John Deere and PHMSA

In September, Dig Safely New York, Inc. (DSNY) received the first excavator simulator of its kind by John Deere. The simulator can walk you through several different jobsite scenarios, letting you know when you've hit a cone or if you're missing your mark. It uses those scenarios to generate your score and lets you know if you practice safe digging accurately. When you first begin using the simulator, an instructor controls your scenario. The system walks you through how to use the simulator so you can get the hang of things. But then, your instructor has the ability to switch up the weather conditions and make your job even more challenging like it could be in the field.

DSNY's Executive Director, Kevin Hopper, tested it out first to learn how it functions and said, "This is a great tool we can utilize for continuing education. The seat moves as if you were in an actual excavator and really conveys the elements of what's happening on the screen."

The simulator is backed by a grant thanks to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and will further the opportunity for

safe digging comprehension, offering another layer of hands-on, innovative training that will assist DSNY in the shift from general awareness of safe digging best practices to firsthand, experiential education. It will also allow DSNY to train excavators and assess them from beginner to advanced skill sets, before utilizing tangible equipment both in DSNY's new indoor excavation training area, as well as in the field.

- By Devin R. Negrete, Dig Safely New York, Inc.





Registration Now Open!

Palm Springs, California
March 24-26, 2020

“It is an outstanding conference; terrific learning opportunity, there are so many people here; so many opportunities to network, grow and learn.”

– Christopher Koch, ZoneOne Locating – 12 time attendee

91%

of past attendees would recommend the Conference to an industry peer.

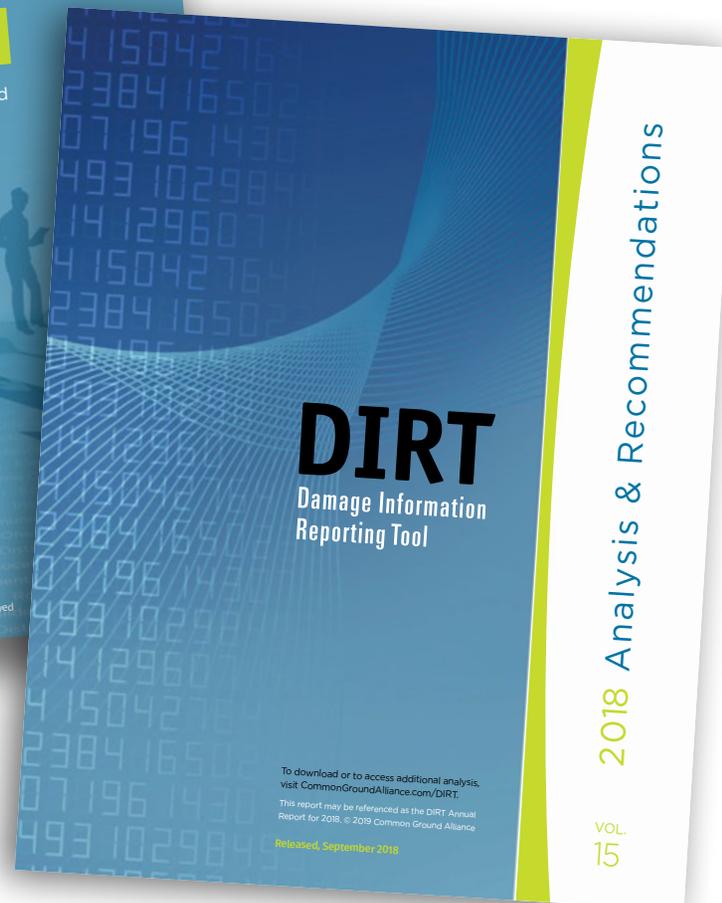
Register by January 11 to save \$200 over onsite pricing!

CGAconference.com/register | 866.279.7755

CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering

CGA Best Practices 16.0, DIRT Report
and 811 Safety Education Videos

To get your copy of the Best Practices 16.0 [click here](#) or for DIRT [click here](#), and look for the appropriate buttons to order.



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