

Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

Best Practices now part of OSHA Resources!

CGA
Common Ground Alliance™

Best Practices
15.0

The Definitive Guide
for Underground
Safety and Damage
Prevention

811

CGA Best Practices Now Included in OSHA Instruction!

Following a sustained effort by our Education Committee's Insurance Stakeholder Group, we are proud to announce that the Common Ground Alliance Best Practices are included in the new directive for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Instruction on the National Emphasis Program (NEP) on Trenching and Excavation.

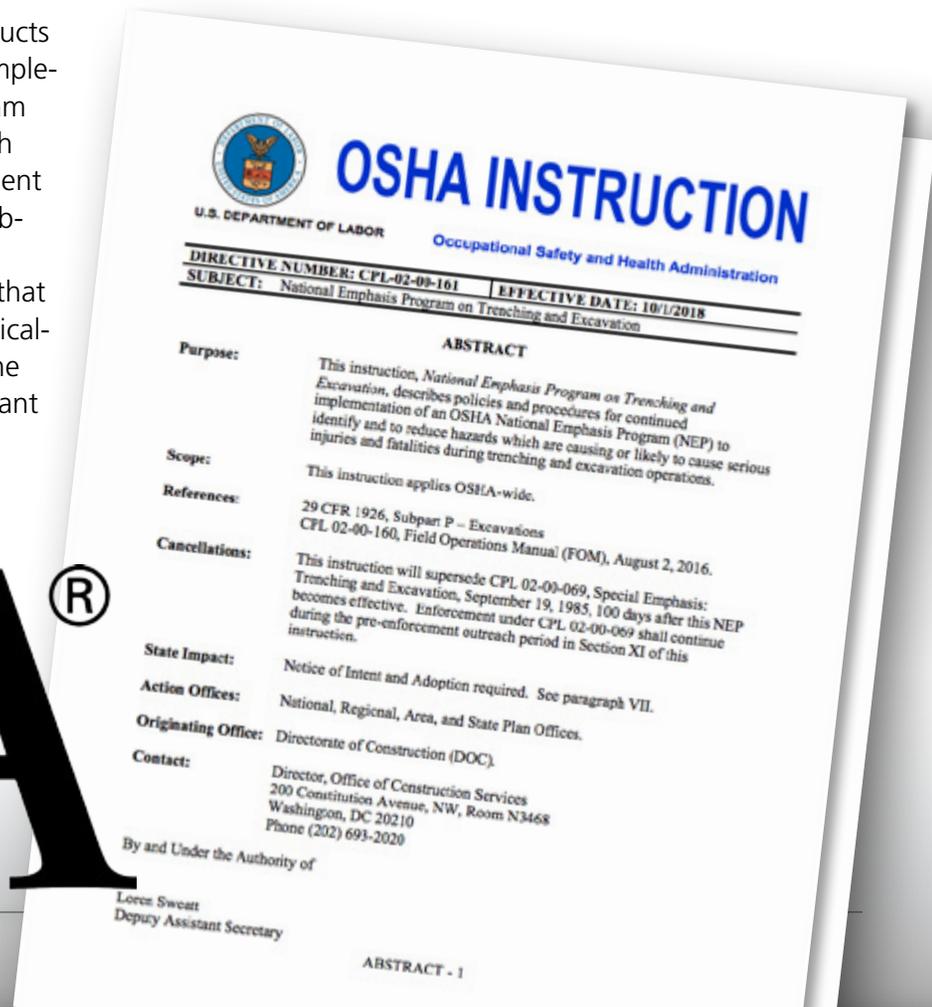
Effective Oct. 1, 2018, [the directive issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA](#) describes policies and procedures for continued implementation of this NEP to identify and reduce hazards which could cause injuries or fatalities during trenching and excavating.

The directive includes CGA's Best Practices Guide as an OSHA compliance resource for its Area Offices and Regions – an important acknowledgement of the critical role these consensus-based guidelines play in preventing damage to underground infrastructure and protecting those who work and live near these important assets.

"OSHA's new NEP directive on trenching and excavation instructs Area Offices to develop and implement a safety outreach program that includes engagement with excavation employers, equipment rental organizations and plumbing companies, among other stakeholders. We are pleased that CGA's Best Practices are specifically included as a resource for the implementation of this important directive," said CGA President and CEO Sarah K. Magruder Lyle. "The CGA Best Practices

are the most referenced document in the damage prevention industry. I would like to thank CGA's dedicated members who continually work to make our Best Practices the most comprehensive, up-to-date and consensus-based set of guidelines for safe excavation, as well as those who worked with our federal partners to make it a part of OSHA's outreach."

To read OSHA's complete directive on the NEP on Trenching and Excavation, click [here](#). To access CGA's Best Practices Guide 15.0, click [here](#).



Nearly 1 Million 811 Impressions Achieved at the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival

Close to 1 million people saw both Shovelman and the original Cox 811 Balloon at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta between Oct.6-18. The biggest fans may have been the Carlos Rey Elementary School kids who got to see the 811 Shovelman Balloon up-close and

personal during Aloft, a community flight in which pilots launch from designated elementary schools throughout Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

Many thanks to the following member-sponsors for making

it possible to bring the 811 Balloons to the world's largest festival: **Alabama 811; Energy Transfer; Georgia 811; Iowa One Call; JULIE, Inc.; MidAmerican Energy; Mississippi 811; Miss Utility/District One Call; New Mexico 811 and Shell Pipeline Company LP.**



The Shovelman balloon pilot gave kids at the Carlos Rey Elementary school an up-close demonstration of balloon operations.

FRESH DIRT

Changes in 2018

In the **June 2018 edition of CGA Update**, we recapped the new questions on the DIRT form for events on or after Jan. 1, 2018. Now we will recap the questions that have been deleted.

Part E – Notification

Was the One-Call Center notified?

- Yes (If Yes, Part F is required)
- No (If No, Skip Part F)

If Yes, which One-Call Center?

If Yes, please provide the ticket number

DIRT no longer asks which one call center was notified. This has never been used in a DIRT report, and if needed could be determined based on the location of the event.

Part F – Locating & Marking

Type of locator

- Utility Owner Contract Locator
- Data Not Collected
- Unknown/Other

DIRT no longer asks if marks were visible and correct. The **April 2018 edition of CGA Update** explains this in more detail, but in a nutshell the Data Committee decided the revamped root causes provide the information needed for the annual DIRT Report and for internal analysis by DIRT users.

Were facility marks visible in the area of excavation?

- Yes No Data Not Collected
- Unknown/Other

Were facilities marks correctly?

- Yes No Data Not Collected
- Unknown/Other

DIRT no longer asks for the number of injuries and fatalities. These have also never been analyzed in DIRT reports. The Data Committee's perception is that due to their sensitive nature, DIRT users may not answer the questions for events involving injuries or fatalities, or not submit a DIRT report at all.

If you're still collecting this information for 2018 events, there will be no means to enter it when submitting your 2018 DIRT reports. Worse than having information you don't need, is not having what you do need. Therefore, it's more important to start collecting data for the new questions ASAP.

More information about the changes to the DIRT form can be found in the "New DIRT Field Form Toolkit" which can be accessed [here](#).

Part H – Description of Damage

Number of people injured

- Unknown 0 1 2 to 9
- 10 to 19 20 to 49 50 to 99
- 100 or more Exact Value _____

Number of fatalities

- Unknown 0 1 2 to 9
- 10 to 19 20 to 49 50 to 99
- 100 or more Exact Value _____



Regional Partner corner

Minnesota Common Ground Alliance

By: Alicia Berger, Xcel Energy

Minnesota Common Ground Alliance (MNCGA) holds a vision to reduce underground damages through a shared partnership of cooperation by creating, using and promoting damage prevention best practices. We are a grassroots group of individuals with a goal of encouraging shared responsibility to ensure public safety and damage prevention practices. We welcome all stakeholders and are proud of the accomplishments this group has achieved together.

Our Education and Agriculture Awareness committees grind out the bulk of our work to educate excavators and increase general public awareness. Estelle Hickman with Gopher State One Call leads our educational committee, which is responsible for organizing and scheduling our spring Damage Prevention meetings across the state. The team also supports the necessary content for the meeting and shares post-survey results with the Utility Coordinating groups across Minnesota. Claude Anderson with the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety has led our

Agriculture Awareness committee for several years, which has made a number of resources available to our members through a focused effort on agriculture and rural areas.

As current chair, Ben Wallace (USIC), would say, "The group performs its best when we have something to get behind." The special events for this group have proven to be a success. Each year, whether it is raising money for Operation Warm or the Children's Hospital, we are building a stronger network of operators and excavators by working together at events like our 811 Run or by sponsoring the 811 Kids Zone at the Day of the Dozers. Over \$15,000 was raised for Operation Warm from our annual 811 Run at this year's event in Minneapolis. The hope is that by strengthening relationships "off the field" at events such as these, we are better able to leverage those relationships "on the field," when partnership for damage prevention can really make an impact in solving problems and removing barriers to success.

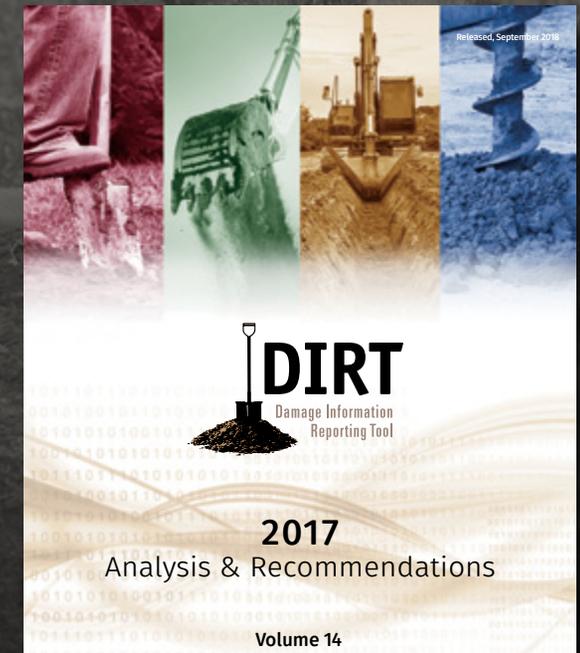
The larger MNCGA group meets quarterly to provide an update on the national issues, events and initiatives being taken by the CGA as well as to have an opportunity for our sub-committees to discuss local issues and initiatives. The leadership within the MNCGA is dedicated to fostering a place for networking and solving industry issues. In addition, we hope to continue to create a platform for feedback to the one call center and other stakeholders to ultimately make excavation safety a priority. Finally, while we are in the process of updating our website, feel free to check us out at <http://www.mncga.com/>.

2017 DIRT Report Makes Headlines

The 2017 DIRT Report has been covered by several industry publications, including the following:

ForConstructionPros.com
Construction Magazine Network
Compact Equipment
Equipment World
Construction Executive
National Law Review
Cabling Installation & Maintenance
Trenchless Technology

Make sure to include info about the 2017 DIRT Report in your internal and external communications. Download infographics and more at commongroundalliance.com/DIRT.



News Briefs

Call Before You Dig, Inc. in Connecticut celebrated its 40th anniversary on Aug. 26 as the 811 Shovelman Balloon was in the state for the Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival. Call Before You Dig also held an anniversary party that day, bringing together current and past board members and various stakeholders to commemorate the anniversary of damage prevention in Connecticut. Click [here](#) to watch a video recapping the celebrations.



On Sept. 21, **Lone Star 811** partnered with **Centerpoint Energy** to exhibit at the Four States Fair & Rodeo in Texarkana, Ark. There was a special visit from JJ Harrison, the 811 Rodeo Clown, at the shared booth. Greg Morganfield, Lone Star 811 damage prevention coordinator, was on the scene to help promote the damage prevention message.

The **Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC)** came out to support Construction Utilities Career Day in Eugene, Ore. on Sept 27. Earlier in the month, OUNC had the pleasure of attending a Hillsboro Hops baseball game, a team the one call center sponsored this year.





Now's Time to Enter CGA's Third Annual 811 Video Challenge!

This year, the 811 Video Challenge asks CGA members to submit either a newly created or existing short video (around 60 seconds in length). Entries may either be public service announcements or social media videos.

Start your planning now to be ready to submit before this contest entry period ends. 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 Annual Meeting and Conference** in Tampa, Fla., in March 2019.

Full information, including official rules and music licensing requirements, may be found at 811VideoChallenge.com.



Introducing Three New Regional Partners

Join us in welcoming the newest **CGA Regional Partners:**

- **NEPA (Northeast Pennsylvania) Regional Partnership**
- **South Dakota Common Ground Alliance**
- **North Central Utility Coordination Committee**



Zero Damages. Reaching the Goal Together.

Hosted by:



100%
MONEY-BACK
SATISFACTION
GUARANTEE

"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

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

Register Today & SAVE!

CGAconference.com | 866.279.7755

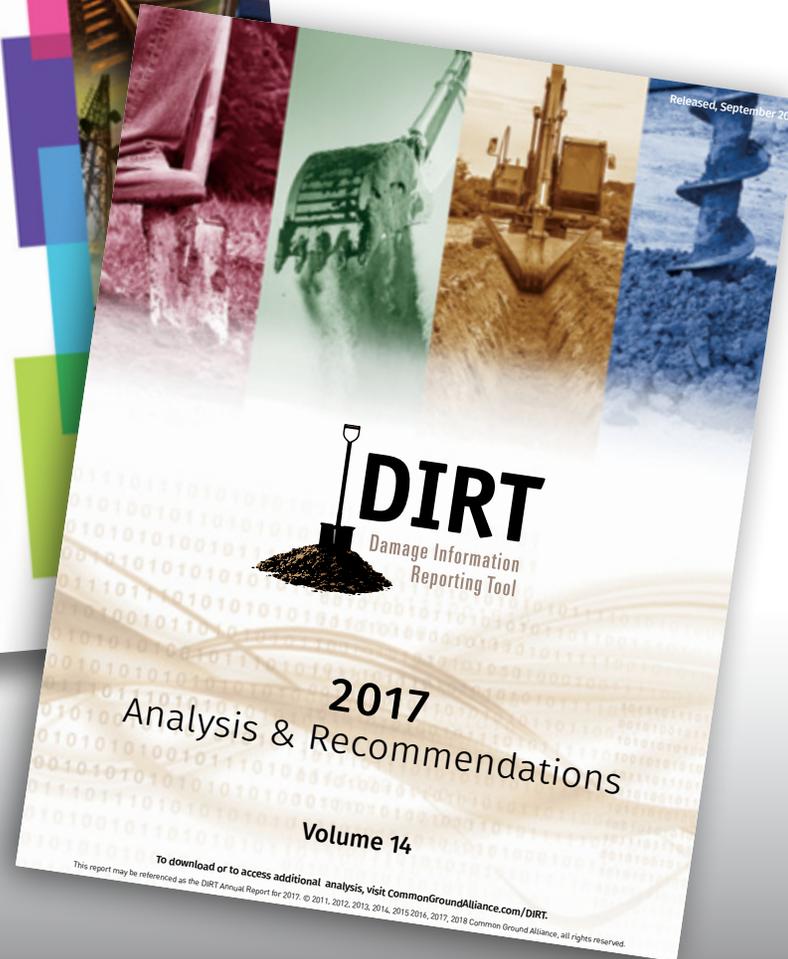
March 26-28, 2019 | Tampa

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](#).