

Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

The 2017 DIRT Report Released



To download or to access additional analysis, visit CommonGroundAlliance.com/DIRT.
This report may be referenced as the DIRT Annual Report for 2017. © 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 2016, 2017, 2018 Common Ground Alliance, all rights reserved.

Board Spotlight

Bob Freudenthal

Stakeholder group: Public Works

Board Member since: 2017

Position: Executive Director,
Tennessee Association of Utility Districts



How have CGA's efforts impacted your stakeholder group?

Just like all of the stakeholder groups, public works and public utilities have seen dramatic improvements in the overall practice of excavation through the efforts of CGA. The public, as well as the industry, are safer because of the good work done by CGA and its membership. Lives have been saved and damages have been reduced thus improving the quality of life in our respective communities.

What are your priorities as a board member?

To continue the mission and vision of CGA, as defined by our new strategic plan, in accomplishing CGA goals for information and analyses, education and stakeholder engagement.

How have CGA resources impacted safety?

These tools have created an environment of "organized safety" for the underground utility industry. Providing best practices and statistical analysis to the underground utility industry helps to improve our ability to meet the challenges encountered by utility professionals. The national number, 811, provides an incredible public awareness opportunity as well as its core goal of improved safety in the field. Communication is the key to success in damage prevention and these tools provide improved communication throughout the entire process.

What does the future hold for CGA?

The future is both bright and challenging for CGA and the utility industry. CGA will continue to be the leading authority in developing and promoting effective damage prevention practices. Maintenance of current deliveries (as well as possible expansion of services to address new technologies) are key elements of CGA's future.

About the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts

The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts' mission is to provide the highest quality technical, legal and operational support to assist its members in delivering safe and efficient services in the public interest. We serve the public water, wastewater and natural gas industry in Tennessee through training, advocacy, and operational, managerial or financial management assistance.

2017 DIRT Report and Interactive Dashboard Released!

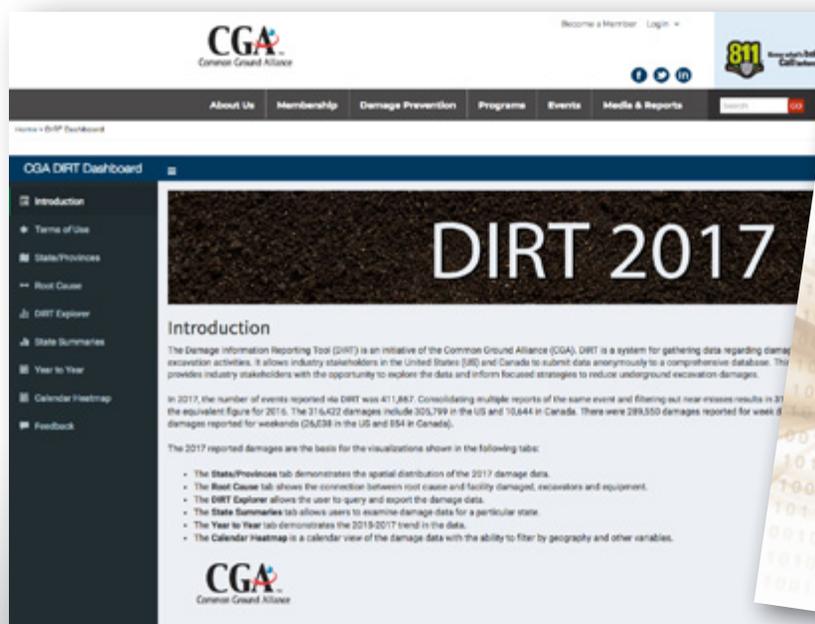
In September, CGA's Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee released the 2017 DIRT Report, which detailed an improved data analysis process used to estimate total U.S. damages, and revealed that damage rates have effectively remained stable from 2015-2017 when construction spending and outbound locate transmissions are taken in to account.

Beyond reading the report itself, **we encourage CGA members to engage with the DIRT Interactive Dashboard**. This dashboard allows users to apply several layers of filters to DIRT data to examine the information through lenses specific to their stakeholder group, location, type of facility and more. We hope you'll be able to uncover information that makes your damage prevention activities even more effective.

Please also check out the **2017 DIRT Report infographics**, which you can use to share some of the most interesting data points from the most recent report. These infographics are ideal for sharing on social media, in electronic or hard copy newsletters, in email communications and more.

You can read CGA's full press release on the findings of the 2017

DIRT Report **here**. Additional information and tools for using the 2017 DIRT Report can be found **here**, on the new CGA DIRT landing page, where you can also access a recording of our Sept. 27 in-depth DIRT Report webinar.



Highlights from the 2017 Report include:

- Details on how an improved data analysis process was used to estimate the total U.S. damages for 2017 and generate revised estimates for 2015 and 2016.
- Estimated damages have increased year-over-year from 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017, but when construction spending and outbound locate transmissions are considered, damage rates have effectively remained stable during this three-year span.



- Reporting and analysis of when damages occur, by month and day of the week, which found:
 - Damages that occurred on a weekend were nearly twice as likely to involve hand tools (shovels, post-hole diggers, etc.) than those on weekdays.
 - 50 percent of all reported damages occurred between June and September in 2017.
 - August was the month with the most total damages in 2017.

If you'd like to provide feedback on the most recent DIRT Report or have questions, please click [here](#).



Samples of some of the DIRT Infographics that are now available for downloading.

2019 Committee Meeting Schedule

Please mark your calendars for next year's committee meetings, and stay tuned to our [events page](#) for updates!

Las Vegas, Nev.

Jan. 22-23: Education

Tampa, Fla.

March 25-27: All committees

San Diego, Calif.

July 23: Data, Education

July 24: Technology, Best Practices

July 25: Board of Directors

Nashville, Tenn.

Nov. 18: OCSI

Nov. 19: Stakeholder, Education, Data

Nov. 20: Best Practices, Technology

Nov. 21: Board of Directors

Introducing the Third Annual 811 Video Challenge!

Get your director's chair ready! The 811 Video Challenge is back for the third consecutive year, and now with an all-new twist.

Get your director's chair ready! 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 either be public service announcements or social media videos.

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

Start your planning now to be ready to submit before this contest entry period ends. This year's challenge opened in Sep-

tember and 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.

As a reminder, an organization must be a CGA member to be eligible for the 811 Video Challenge. If your organization is not a member, please [click here](#) to learn more on how to become a member.



A Global Perspective on Damage Prevention

By: Khrysanne M. Kerr, vice president of communications, Common Ground Alliance

Modeled after the CGA Damage Prevention Conference and Expo, Australia hosted its inaugural Oceania Conference this past August. Traveling as an international delegate, it was a rare opportunity to learn from peers outside the U.S. and gather a more global perspective.

Over 250 delegates were in attendance representing nine countries including the UK, South Africa and New Zealand. It was immediately clear that the goal to get to zero damages was the goal of everyone in the room. Although the processes of excavation notification varied greatly, the desired outcome was always the same: We all stand on common ground when it comes to keeping our communities safe and connected.

Participating in numerous panels and sessions, there was much discussion regarding DIRT and the Best Practices. Measuring effectiveness and reducing damages was top of mind for many in the room. Enlightening dialogue often ensued after each audience question as each represented country had a unique take on how these situations would be handled.

New technologies were a key focus on the trade show floor. CGA Bronze Sponsor Pelican Corp. provided the latest updates on its Dial Before

You Dig software. Similar parallels to public awareness were witnessed by the Dial Before You Dig logo emblazoned on several vehicles reminding would-be diggers of the important safety message.

One of the major differences noticed was the largest stakeholder group in attendance was telecommunications. Australia is about the size of the continental U.S., but with a population the size of Texas. Because of the vast amount of land between densely populated areas, the importance of protecting the underground communications network is omnipresent.

The 2019 CGA Excavation Safety Conference and Expo is being held in Tampa, Fla. from March 26-28. We encourage you to join us as we anticipate many of these international delegates joining us and sharing their perspective on U.S. soil.

For more information and to register for the CGA Expo, click [here](#).

Dominic Puiu, General Manager, Dial Before You Dig NSW/ACT Inc., Andrew Healy, Business Development Manager, PelicanCorp, Richard Broome, Managing Director, LinesearbeforeUdig Limited – LSBUD, Khrysanne Kerr, Vice President of Communications, CGA, Mike Sullivan, President, Alberta One-Call Corporation





Kansas City Metro Chapter

By: Monty Zimmerman, right of way manager, City of Lenexa

Kansas City has had an active Regional Partners group for many years. We have a very diverse group of members, which include municipal right-of-way managers and coordinators, utility owners, state regulators, one call operators, county GIS representatives and utility contractors. We have had participation from the Kansas City Metro Materials Board, the Concrete Promotional Group, attorneys and insurance representatives as well.

Recently, our group has had two projects we have been working on. The first has been issues with one call tickets and the way they are called out for non-response activity. Once a non-response ticket is called in, the newly generated ticket goes out to the same utility group as before instead of to only those members that did not respond. This causes confusion and pulls locator resources away from already heavy ticket loads to go back to a locate they have already completed only to find that they are not the ones that need to get that locate completed. We have a subcommittee that is working on this issue, which has made some progress, but they still need to work through the one call operating committee. The ticket volume for non-response

requests is roughly four to five percent of all tickets called in to the one call center, a number that the group would like to see reduced. The two groups are united and looking for possible ways to enhance the 811 system in Kansas. The recent addition of commercial power services being located has added to the underground safety needs for excavations in our state, as well.

The second issue we have been working on for over two years is very important to our contractor members and the entire contracting community here in the KC Metro area. For years, contractors have been complaining that they were damaging existing utilities while trying to find their locations before they could start boring. At that time, many municipalities, sometime between 2007 and 2012, started requiring the use of flowable fill to help with compaction problems from excavating in paved surfaces. The problem that we found was that the flowable fill was not as dig-able, even though meeting specifications. The strength was somewhere in the neighborhood of 200

PSI when it should have been somewhere closer to 100 PSI. Two problems existed; the first being that most cities did not have a dig-able flowable fill mix design on record with concrete providers, and the second was if there was no mix design on record for that municipality, the concrete providers automatically defaulted to Kansas Department of Transportation, which specified a 250 PSI mix. This created problems when attempting to expose the utility that was in the flowable fill;

// The ticket volume for non-response requests is four to five percent of all tickets called in, a number that the group would like to see reduced. //

contractors needed to use pneumatic or hydraulic equipment to try to break away the material. The use of this type of equipment does not allow for gentle removal of flowable fill material encapsulating the utility.

Our solution was to develop a mix design with the help of APWA Metro chapter's Technical Specifications Committee and three engineering firms with members on the committee to review and revise the flowable fill specification that all municipalities could adopt. Finally, we made sure that all concrete providers had the new mix design and were able to make it as well as make sure that all contractors knew how to correctly order the new product. An early problem was that ready-mix suppliers continued to request a slump value. The mix design already had the correct slump so it was a learning curve for

everyone to make sure the flowable fill mixed at the plant and received at the job site met the design criteria.

To-date we have had the product in use for over eight months now and

on occasion have had the need to dig up an area where the product has been used. It is indeed very dig-able and during excavation there has not been any damage done to existing facilities where this product was used. There have also been conversations to adjust the PSI strength from its current range and to expand that range to allow some providers a better comfort level with the product. We are currently looking into this idea.

Miss Utility of Maryland and Washington, D.C.'s Touch-a-Truck Day

On Aug. 25, hundreds of children and adults attended the 2018 Miss Utility of Maryland and Washington, D.C. Touch-a-Truck Day at the Bowie Baysox Stadium. The event was part of Miss Utility's celebration of 8/11 Day, reminding residents to call 811 before beginning any digging projects to have their underground utilities marked.

Pulling in record numbers of attendees, the fourth annual Touch-a-Truck Day offered guests the opportunity to explore construction vehicles that they often see working in their communities. As one of its largest damage prevention events of the year, Miss Utility's Touch-a-Truck Day is a platform to educate attendees on safe digging and how local construction

companies work with Miss Utility to keep their communities safe.

Along with exploring the more than 40 vehicles from local utility and construction companies, attendees enjoyed construction and safety-related activities, including a pipe fusing station where visitors could create their own

hula hoops, a sandbox filled with construction toys and shovels, corn hole, a 'Find the Line' locating station and a CPR training station hosted by the local fire and rescue squad. Miss Utility also organized music, kids' giveaways including hats and Touch-A-Truck T-shirts, a face painting station, concession stand and the 811 Car was on display.

The event took place prior to a minor league baseball game at the Bowie Baysox stadium in Bowie, Md. that featured a gate giveaway of bobbleheads, a first pitch thrown by a Miss Utility representative and fireworks to close out the night. More than 7,600 people attended the baseball game and were treated to Miss Utility-sponsored PA announcements, in addition to a Miss Utility giveaway table with T-shirts, pens, pins and other 811 branded items! In the months leading up to Touch-a-Truck Day, promotions advertising the Miss Utility event, including billboards, radio ads and sponsorships, lead to nearly **2 million impressions.**



News Briefs

An update on the 8/11 Day Cody Johnson Concert!

On Aug. 11, a coalition of damage prevention advocates joined forces to bring country music headliner Cody Johnson live to the Bud Light Stage at Sam Houston Race Park in Houston. More than 16,200 fans were able to enjoy their favorite tunes from Randall King, Josh Ward Band, Easton Corbin and Cody Johnson, and new analytics show that Texas811's special Snapchat filter for the event was used more than 300,000 times with a 79 percent usage rate! CGA would like to thank all of the sponsors of this incredible event and apologize for omitting the full list in last month's 8/11 Day reporting. They are: **Air Products, CenterPoint Energy,**



Dow Gulf Coast Pipeline, Energy Transfer, Enterprise Products, Lone Star 811, Lyon-dellBasell, Paradigm, Phillips 66, Plains All American Pipeline, Shell Pipe Line Company LP and Texas811.



On Aug. 20, **Dig Safely New York, Inc. (DSNY)** hosted its first Mock Pipeline Strike and Response Training and Demonstration at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, N.Y. More than 170 attendees experienced the dangers of damaging a utility from the levels of field professionals, utility operators, families and community responders. As the scenario escalated from an impatient homeowner demanding a fast project turnaround, to the actual explosion resulting from mechanized equipment damaging the buried utility, onlookers witnessed environmental destruction and the resulting high-risk effects related to unsafe digging practices. DSNY thanks RG&E, the North Seneca Ambulance, CNY Drone Works and the Seneca Falls Fire and Police Departments for helping to make the event a success.

Gopher State One Call (GSOC) had a booth at the Minnesota State Fair to promote the damage prevention message with fairgoers and to distribute its wildly popular yardsticks, along with other GSOC promotional items. Attendees could spin the GSOC wheel and land on an APWA color-coded utility to determine the color of the yardstick they would receive. Some fair attendees make an annual trip to the GSOC booth to receive a yardstick. This year, GSOC received pictures of awesome home projects made with the colorful yardsticks!





The skies above southern Illinois featured 35 floating globes of color during a busy August weekend of races and glows at the Centria Balloon Fest. On the ground, more than 30,000 spectators from all over the world had an opportunity to see the **811 Shovelman Balloon** and learn more about underground damage prevention. As one of the proud sponsors of the 811 Balloon this year, volunteers from **JULIE (Illinois One-Call System)** assisted the pilot and crew and distributed 811 stickers, key tags and information about safe digging practices.

From Aug. 26-28, representatives from the **Kansas City Common Ground Alliance (KCCGA)** and **Pennsylvania 811 (PA811)** hosted a booth at the APWA Public Works Exposition. Over 5,000 people attended this expo and over 300 walked through CGA's 811 Virtual Reality Experience hosted by PA811. In addition to the 811 Virtual Reality Experience, many giveaways were provided by the KCCGA partners as were CGA Membership Forms and Best Practices Guides. Representatives from **Atmos Energy, the City of Lenexa, Google Fiber, Heartland Midwest, Kansas 811, Kansas Corporation Commission, K&W Underground, Kansas City Power and Light, Paradigm** and **PA811** made this event a collective win.



Nebraska811 had a booth at the Nebraska State Fair to educate fairgoers about the 811 message, and hosted a dig pit for kids. There were lots of fun and educational activities, as well as some great giveaways.



Janet Stochla and Jordan Partlow of **UGI Utilities Pipeline & Public Safety Team** battled the heat wave on Aug. 28 at the Railriders game at PNC Field in in Moosic, Penn., to spread the 811 word. **UGI** and its 811 Partners **PPL, USIC, One Call** and **UGI Energy Services** have safe digging messages on the concession stand monitors during the game and the jumbo screen whenever there is a pitching change as part of the "Call to the Bullpen" campaign.





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 by October 11 & SAVE!

CGAconference.com | 866.279.7755

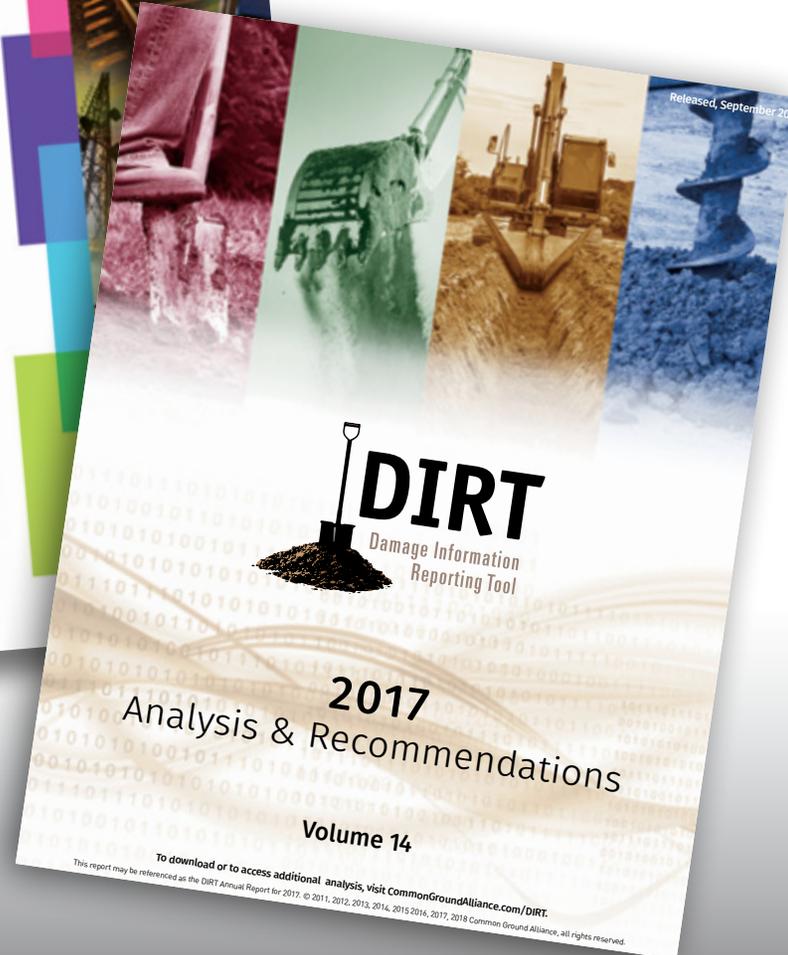
March 26-28, 2019 | Tampa

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](#).