

# Safety & Damage Prevention

*...Putting it all together*



## Use of CGA Best Practices to Impact Legislation

The Common Ground Alliance Best Practices manual includes over 130 practices agreed to by 16 stakeholder groups that cover all phases of an underground construction project. The consensus process used to identify these best practices is particularly valuable when used as a resource to impact damage prevention legislation. While Best Practices is most commonly used as a guide for implementing a safety and damage prevention program, many use it as a resource to build more effective state, safety and damage prevention laws. This approach to advocacy has been successful in many state houses, because for a practice to become a Best Practice, a stakeholder must prove that it works.

**CGA Background:** The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is a member-driven association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting best practices and encouraging shared responsibility in underground damage prevention. The CGA membership includes companies from sixteen stakeholder groups who play a role in preventing damage to underground facilities including electric, engineering/design, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, Excavator, gas distribution, gas transmission, insurance, locator, oil, one call, public works, railroad, road builder, state regulator, telecommunications and emergency services.

**Best Practices Background:** The CGA Best Practices were originally developed during the 1998/1999 Common Ground Study of One-Call Systems and Damage Prevention Best Practices, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The best practices are shared among public and private-sector stakeholders involved with and dependent on the safe and reliable operation, maintenance, construction, and protection underground facilities. The best practices cover all phases of an underground infrastructure construction project from planning and design through backfill, including one call notification, accurate locating and marking of facilities, applicable reporting of damage data, and effective public awareness and education.

### Accessing the Best Practices

- **About Best Practices:** Provides an overview of CGA's best practices including FAQs.
- **Best Practices Online:** Access an online version of the publication. This includes all 130+ practices organized by content area and includes icons to assist readers in identifying practices that pertain to their stakeholder/industry group.
- **Submit New Practice Proposals:** Electronic proposal process allows for easy submission of new practices or modifications from all stakeholders. This ensures CGA's best practices are up-to-date and remain valid over time.
- **Best Practices Approval Process:** Review the process used by the CGA to ensure each new practice or modification receives input from all CGA stakeholders.
- **Order Hard Copies:** The Best Practices field manual includes all practices in a 120-page, full color, spiral bound book with 7 tabs. The price for each book, or box of books, includes all shipping/handling costs. \$3/book (members), \$5/book (nonmembers)

### Samples/References

The following case studies include examples of how groups used Best Practices as part of the legislative development process. The case studies were developed by the Stakeholder Advocacy Committee.

- **Indiana State Legislation** – Case Study (Sept. 2014)
- **North Carolina Legislation** – Case Study (June 2014)
- **Michigan Legislation** – Case Study (December 2014)