

Common Ground Alliance

PIPA – January 15, 2008

Common Ground Alliance

- In 2008...

CGA is celebrating 10 years since the kick-off of the “Common Ground Study”



Need for a Study Identified - 1998

- Numerous stakeholder groups involved with and dependent upon the “safe and reliable operation, maintenance, construction, and protection of underground facilities”
- Not all regulated by same agency/group
- Need for stakeholders to discuss cause of damages and potential solutions on “common ground”

Common Ground Study

COMMON GROUND

Study of One-Call Systems and Damage Prevention
Best Practices

August 1999

Sponsored by the United States Department of Transportation; Research and Special Programs Administration; Office of Pipeline Safety, as authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21)

- Authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
- Sponsored by DOT's Office of Pipeline Safety (Now PHMSA)
- Kick-off meeting held in Arlington, VA in August 1998

Broad Stakeholder Involvement

More than 160 experts in damage prevention participated in the Study

Industry

- ◆ **Oil & Gas**
 - Transmission & Distribution
- ◆ **Telecommunications**
- ◆ **Railroads**
- ◆ **Utilities**
 - Electric, Water, Sewer
- ◆ **Cable TV**
- ◆ **One-Call Systems**

Professions/Associations

- ◆ **Excavators & Locators**
- ◆ **Equipment Services**
- ◆ **Design Engineers**
- ◆ **One-Call Centers**
- ◆ **Regulators**

Government

- ◆ **Federal**
- ◆ **State**
- ◆ **Local**



Effective Process

Objective was “to identify and validate existing best practices performed in connection with preventing damage to underground facilities.”

- Consensus process used – all stakeholders could “live with” final practices
- Contained validated experiences (must be an existing practice)
- Intended to be shared among stakeholders – Adoption of practices intended to be encouraged not required

Successful Teams

8 Task Team Chapters Provided a Collection of Current Damage Prevention Practices

- Chapter 2: Planning & Design
- Chapter 3: One Call Center
- Chapter 4: Locating & Marking
- Chapter 5: Excavation
- Chapter 6: Mapping
- Chapter 7: Compliance & Enforcement
- Chapter 8: Public Education & Awareness
- Chapter 9: Reporting & Evaluation

Final Report Published in August 1999...

- All practices represented agreement of all stakeholders involved in the study
- What Next - The Damage Prevention Path Forward initiative led to the development of the Common Ground Alliance - to support industry efforts to continue the implementation and development of the Damage Prevention Best Practices.

Common Ground Alliance

Damage Prevention is a Shared Responsibility

- Incorporated in 2000
- First Employee Hired in 2001
- CGA has grown to 1,400 individuals, 165 member organizations and 40 sponsors



Common Ground Alliance Today

- Organizational Structure:
 - Board of Directors

Excavator	Road Builders
Equipment Manufacturing	Telecommunications
Gas Transmission	Gas Distribution
Oil	Public Works
Insurance	Engineer/Design
Railroad	Electric
Locator	Emergency Services
One-Call	State Regulator

Common Ground Alliance Today

- Organizational Structure continued
 - Staff
 - Working Committees (populated by membership)
 - Data Reporting & Evaluation Committee
 - Research & Development Committee
 - Educational Programs & Marketing Membership Committee
 - One-Call Systems International Committee
 - Regional CGA Committee
 - Best Practices Committee

Best Practices Today

“Best Practices” is a Working Document

Neither DOT nor the CGA ever intended that the best practices described in 1999 would constitute a static model. Rather, both anticipated that the best practices would evolve over time as more was learned and as technology advanced. Moreover, CGA and the DOT expected that there likely would be additional best practices developed by the interested participants. Version 2.0 should be viewed as a starting point. As best practices are added or amended, the additions and amendments will be reflected in further versions, numbered sequentially. By this means we hope to provide a continuum that will permit the public, and especially stakeholders in underground utility damage prevention, to see the course of development over time. We also hope to provide commentary as to the reasons for any indicated changes.

Best Practices Today

- Best Practices Committee – 60 active members
- Each stakeholder group has a primary on the committee – primary represents “vote of stakeholders”
- Receive approximately 10-15 requests for new practices or modifications to existing practices annually
- Continuously review existing practices for relevance and necessary updates



Continued Focus on Process



New Practice Proposal

- New practice idea submitted to the BP Committee. Committee reviews and decides whether to investigate further in subcommittee. 
- If subcommittee is assigned – team further reviews/researches existing practices and crafts appropriate language. 
- Proposed language is posted for 30 day review by all stakeholders. 
- BP Committee votes on at in-person meeting – Consensus is required for approval. Board of Directors provides final approval.



Key Programs Supporting Damage Prevention



Damage Information Reporting Tool



- Collect incident reports on damages to underground infrastructure
- Working to identify root cause of damages
- Tool accepts data from all stakeholder groups
- DIRT report growing as reference for national snapshot

811 – Know What's Below Call Before You Dig

811: Nationwide Call-
Before-You-Dig number
Launched May 2007.

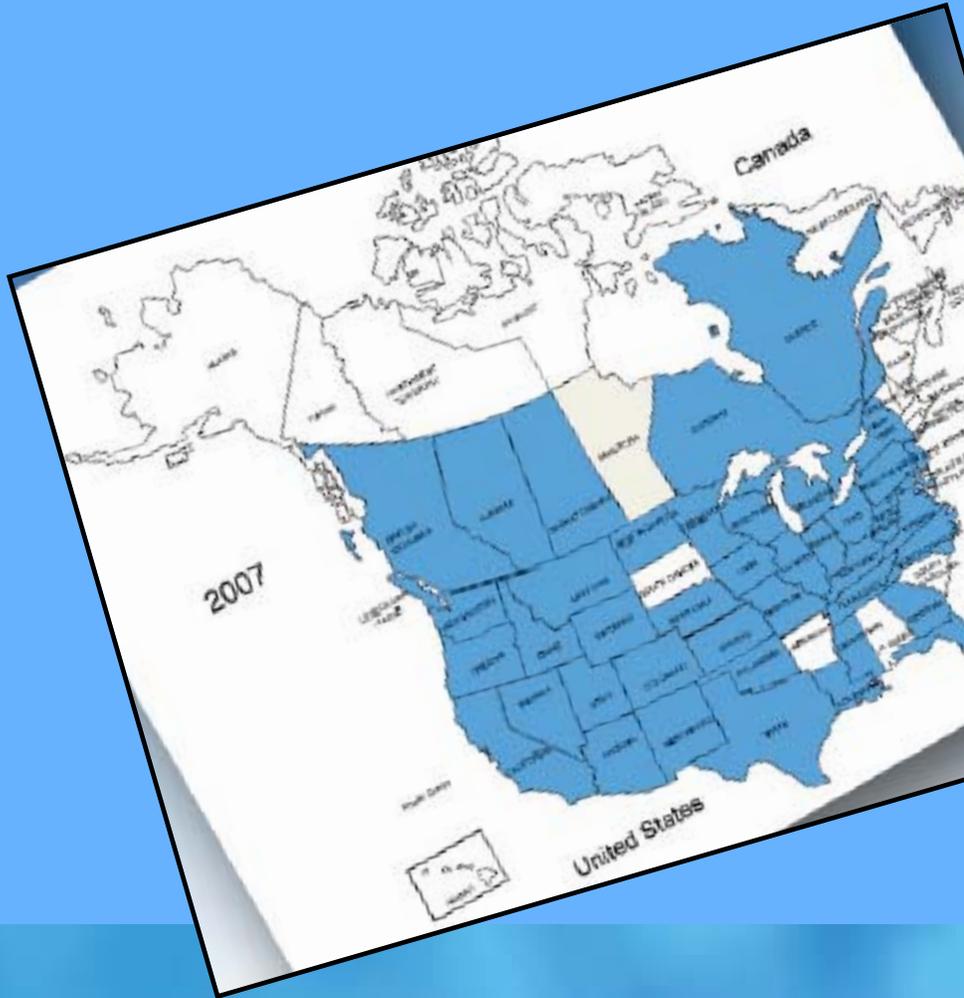
Campaign launched by CGA
– carried out by CGA
Stakeholders.



Regional Partner Program

- Partner with new and existing local damage prevention efforts throughout North America
- Partners must promote best practices and not exclude any stakeholders in their meetings/discussion
- Focus on promoting two-way communication – Regional Groups and National CGA

Regional Partners in 2007



- Grown to **50** partners
- Representing **43** states and provinces throughout the United States & Canada

CGA in 2008

- Continued growth in membership
- Increased awareness/adoption of Best Practices
- Promotion of 811 throughout the country
- Publication of “DIRT Report” in March 2008 – increase in number of reports submitted for 2007
- Growth of Regional Partner Program



Common Ground Alliance