

2016 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress and Final Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH5616GSDP15

Project Title: State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants - 2016

Date Submitted: March 22, 2017

Submitted by: Kathleen McNelis

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the recipient will:

Use the grant award for the purposes of executing a large-scale educational seminar focused on damage prevention and excavation safety. The event will build on the monumental success of the previous 5 years, with projected attendance for the proposed project estimated at 1,750 - 2,000 attendees. Following the overwhelming response from the construction, excavation, and utility industries as well as the partnerships with dozens of vendors and associations, The Missouri Common Ground Alliance, in cooperation with the Missouri Public Service Commission, and Missouri One Call System coalition of organizations will work diligently to develop and execute an informative, educational, and impactful event with the damage prevention message.

The proposed project is a FREE 2-day event consisting of multiple dimensions designed to engage attendees and profoundly impact the way that they view and practice safety within their communities and organizations. Approximately 20 classes will be offered (completely free of charge), some including certifications that are often extraordinarily expensive to obtain. By offering the courses without cost, companies who often cannot afford to train their employees in proper safety and damage prevention measures are able to send multiple attendees to become better educated on critical safety principles. As a result, attendees return to their workplaces with new methods and approaches that they subsequently communicate and demonstrate to fellow employees, further amplifying the message and investment that the coalition made in the event. In addition to the free classes and certifications, the proposed project will offer a tradeshow expo for equipment vendors, manufacturers, and representatives of a diverse range of products and services. This segment brings new technologies, safer products, and innovative solutions to the event attendees, further enhancing safety and damage prevention as a result of the exposure to exhibitors' offerings.

The project will also provide an opportunity for attendees to demonstrate their skills and proficiencies in two highly competitive contests while remaining focused on best practices for locators and excavators. The locate rodeo will consist of 4 utility divisions (gas, electric, water, telecommunication) and will require participants to demonstrate and adhere to principles that exhibit superior knowledge of locating and a commitment to best practices. Like the locator rodeo, the excavator rodeo will feature skills assessments while emphasizing the need to observe superb damage prevention practices.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Recipient will address the following applicable elements listed in the approved application, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §60134 (a),(b).

- **Element 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement): (Not Applicable)**
- **Element 1 (Effective Communications):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of methods for establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders from receipt of an excavation notification until successful completion of the excavation, as appropriate. (Applicable)
- **Element 2 (Comprehensive Stakeholder Support):** A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program. (Applicable)
- **Element 4 (Effective Employee Training):** Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators. (Applicable)
- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities. (Applicable)
- **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues. (Applicable)
- **Element 7 (Enforcement):** Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority. (Applicable)
- **Element 8 (Technology):** A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs. (Applicable)
- **Element 9 (Damage Prevention Program):** A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews. (Applicable)

Accomplishments for this period (Item 1 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MO PSC), in a collaborative effort with the Missouri Common Ground Alliance, the Missouri One Call System, and additional stakeholders, requested this grant funding for the purposes of conducting a two-day Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit (Summit) in December 2016. This objective was accomplished by conducting the Summit in Springfield, Missouri on December 7 and 8, 2016, as planned. There were approximately 1,500 attendees at the 2016 Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit.

The objective of the Summit was to provide a forum for stakeholder training, participation and discussions related to damage prevention and excavation safety, preventing avoidable accidents and damages to underground utility infrastructure and protection of the public health and welfare of those working and living near buried utility facilities. This was accomplished by the following:

- 1). The Summit provided approximately 42 hours of educational instruction designed to familiarize attendees with legally required activities, industry standards & best practices, safety related topics and pertinent theories to proactively avoid damages. Individual attendance at each training session was tracked and multiplied by the hours of each session to calculate total training hours provided to participants. The total training hours provided to participants was 6,823.5 hours.
- 2). The Summit provided participants with the opportunity to view and operate equipment used in virtually every excavating scenario imaginable, with equipment manufacturers demonstrating the safest and most efficient way to employ their products.
- 3). The Summit discussed and demonstrated best practices for excavators and locators through competitive “rodeos” designed to analyze and showcase the accuracy and efficiency of competitors.
- 4). The Summit was an inclusive forum for the exchange of ideas, concepts, experiences, and the resolution of problematic issues. In addition to having a formal Stakeholder Roundtable Session, stakeholders had opportunities to initiate discussion among their peers in the excavation industry and to establish networks for communication in future activities.
- 5). The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages and encouraged summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and to educate colleagues, customers, and the general public on the importance of damage avoidance.
- 6). The Summit continues to provide the volunteer group consisting of stakeholders from varying industries and backgrounds the opportunity to consistently review conformity to PHMSA’s Nine Elements of Damage Prevention. This group also developed,

implemented, and reviewed training programs designed to sustain the gains made during instruction through the Summit.

▪ ***Element 1: Effective Communication***

The 2016 Summit provided several means of establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders. In addition to the opportunity for individuals to network with other stakeholders, the project hosted a stakeholder roundtable on enforcement and dispute resolution to identify areas of deficiency and solutions to existing problems. Additionally, a presentation was made on the Missouri One Call Standards, including how to comply with the law for excavators and utilities and the tools and resources offered through Missouri One Call.

▪ ***Element 2: Comprehensive Stakeholder Support***

One of the purposes of the Summit is to provide industry stakeholders damage prevention education classes each year. Several sessions were held to support stakeholders. In addition to the Stakeholder Roundtable discussed above, training sessions included Locator Training, One Call training, Trenching Technologies: New Solutions for Safer Sites, Legal Liabilities for Business Owners, and Pipeline Safety and Natural Gas Emergencies. Demonstrations were held on Trench Rescue.

▪ ***Element 4: Effective Employee Training***

One of the purposes of the Summit is to provide industry stakeholders damage prevention education classes each year. The 2016 Summit hosted over 20 free classes, some providing certifications. These included OSHA 10-hour construction certification training, Excavation Competent Person Certification and Confined Space Competent Person training. Additionally, locator training and damage investigation classes were provided, as well as the locator and excavator rodeos.

▪ ***Element 5: Public Awareness***

The 2016 Summit is a public event and all classes, certifications and events are offered at no cost to registrants. Due to the size of the event, the Summit has attracted media attention which increases public awareness. In addition, the 2016 Summit included a realistic trench rescue demonstration that included fire/rescue, emergency medical personnel and police personnel.

▪ ***Element 6: Dispute Resolution***

A stakeholder Roundtable was held on Enforcement and Dispute Resolution. Discussions included enforcement actions taken by the Missouri Attorney General's Office and the dispute resolution process as it currently exists. Opinions were solicited for how best to resolve disputes between parties.

▪ ***Element 7: Enforcement***

A stakeholder Roundtable was held on Enforcement and Dispute Resolution. Discussions included enforcement actions taken by the Missouri Attorney General's Office and the dispute resolution process as it currently exists. Opinions were solicited for how best to resolve disputes between parties. The Missouri Damage Prevention

statutes changed substantially during the 2014 legislative session. Additionally, a presentation was made on the One Call system including compliance with the law for excavators and utilities and the tools and resources offered to assist in these efforts.

▪ ***Element 8: Technology***

The product vendors participating in the Summit displayed equipment and had opportunities to discuss current technologies with stakeholders. A class was held on Locator Training: Finding What You Can't See to examine the theory, fundamentals and technology used to locate underground utilities as well as a discussion of new technologies.

▪ ***Element 9: Damage Prevention Programs***

The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages through discussion of the changes to the Damage Prevention statute and other presentations and encouraged summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and the importance of damage avoidance.

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Project Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)

The Grant was to provide the means to be able to conduct the Summit and that was accomplished.

One measure of effectiveness would be the total attendance. The attendance at the 2016 Summit was 1,508 attendees (the 2014 Summit attendance was approximately 1,300; the 2015 Summit attendance was approximately 1,500). A total of \$66,821.30 of grant funds was expended, representing approximately \$44.31 of grant expenditure per attendee.

Another measure of effectiveness would be the total training hours provided. In the 2016 Summit 42 hours of training were offered. Actual attendance in each class was taken and recorded electronically. When the individual class hours are multiplied by the actual number of people attending each class, the total was 6,823.5 hours of training provided to individual participants. A total of \$66,821.30 of grant funds was expended, representing approximately \$9.79 of grant expenditure per training hour provided to participants.

Comments were solicited from stakeholders and those comments were summarized, tabulated, and reviewed to determine how the Summit was received by the participants, determine what the participants liked/didn't like about the Summit, and determine what the participants would like to see in the future. Those comments are being used in the planning process to plan for future Summits.

Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Project Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. “)

No Issues, problems or challenges to report.

Final Financial Status Report

The expenditures were all Contractual. There were contracts with several entities for the following services: venue rental (Ozark Empire Fairgrounds); convention services equipment rental (Page & Brown Convention Services), video production services (Burnt Bridge Films and Wise Group), design/marketing/advertising services (Imagemark Marketing & Advertising), professional speaker services (Tony Crow), T-shirts (T-Scene). Included with this submission is a spreadsheet of all the expenditures and supporting documentation for those expenditures that have been paid by the MO PSC.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.

Submission of Deliverables

Under the terms of the Grant Agreement, the MO PSC is to submit four deliverables: (1) a Progress Report; (2) a Final Report; (3) a Mid-term Financial Status Report; and, (4) a Final Financial Status Report.

The awarded project has been completed and all expenses have been paid by the MO PSC between the effective date of award and before the due date of the mid-term documents. The MO PSC is therefore submitting: (1) a Final Report; and (2) a Final Financial Status Report (SF-425 – Federal Financial Report) by the due date for the Progress Report (April 1, 2017).