

2018 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: 693JK31840009PSDP

Project Title: Nebraska State Fire Marshal State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: April 9, 2019

Submitted by: David Levering

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Nebraska State Fire Marshal will:

- Develop and implement methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

Element 1: White Flag Giveaway

Element 2: Safety Summit, Damage Prevention Groups

Element 5: Public Education – Billboards, Radio, TV

Workscope

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

- **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.
- **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.
- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation.

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.”)

Element 1: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Statewide education and distribution of white marking flags preceded with an educational mailer/order form.

To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. Printing and mailing of the flyer to all excavators that have placed a locate request in Nebraska in the past year, will be completed by June 1, 2019. Flag orders will be taken and mailed up until September 1, 2019 or until supplies run out.

Element 2: COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit – the momentum continues for another year as the event held on February 20, 2019 improved in most areas including positive feedback from attendees. Invitations reached all stakeholders and members that had placed a locate request in the previous 12 months which totaled 9,451 addresses and 11,103 email addresses. A very untimely major snow storm hindered attendance but approximately 560 were still able to make it to the event. Free online registration also supplemented the event and contributed to its success in reaching a wide variety of stakeholders. Registrations for the event totaled 1,266 which was a significant increase over the previous year. The event was able to expand in other areas due to sponsorship support which allowed for excavator skills tests, meals, prizes, a virtual reality experience and venue decorative enhancements. High-visibility vests, 811 t-shirts, color code cards, and CGA Best Practice manuals were distributed to those in attendance. The speakers, excavator and locate rodeos, hands-on demonstrations and other activities on the agenda received high praise in the evaluations as did the venue. A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders was achieved through the sessions offered, a new and improved excavator rodeo and the addition of a locate rodeo.

Attachments:

- SD-1 Mailing list for email invitation
- SD-2 Mailing list – invitation via regular mail
- SD-3 Attendee list
- SD-4 Registration list
- SD-5 Invitation mailer with agenda
- SD-6 Emailed invitation
- SD-7 Program

The Outstanding Excavator and Locator Awards concept is in its fourth year and has increased awareness due to word of mouth from the previous year. There were 25 nominations for the Outstanding Locator Award and fourteen for the Excavator award which is a significant increase over previous years.

Element 5: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards – Campaigns to support National Safe Digging Month are being executed. To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

Radio/TV – To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. A full campaign is planned for the main digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

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.”)

Element 1: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

White Flag Education and Giveaway – No activity to date.

Element 2: COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Excavation Safety Summit attendance for this event decreased due to a very untimely, major snow storm. There was a 42% decrease in attendance from the previous year. This year the attendance was around 560 however registrations continued a nine year pattern of increasing and totaled 1,266. Physical invitations reached 9,451 excavators and members and email invitations reached 11,103 addresses.

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

Excavation Safety Summit attendance for this event decreased due to a very untimely, major snow storm however materials purchased are able to be re-purposed for distribution to similar 811 stakeholder events in the future.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

Element 2: SAFETY SUMMIT

Total reimbursable expenditure is \$36,273.44.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Element 1: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Statewide education and distribution of White Marking Flags preceded with an educational mailer/order form.

To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. Printing and mailing of the flyer to all excavators that have placed a locate request in Nebraska in the past year, will be completed by June 1, 2019. Flag orders will be taken and fulfilled up until September 1, 2019 or until supplies run out.

Element 2: COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit – this project is complete. There are no plans for the remainder of the period.

Element 5: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards – A campaign throughout the dig season is planned.

Radio/TV – A full campaign is planned for the main digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.