

**2018 State Damage Prevention Program Grant Final Progress Report**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** 693JK31840023PSDP

**Project Title:** State Damage Prevention (SOP) Program Grants - 2018

**Date Submitted:** October 25, 2019

**Submitted by:** Jamie Renard

**Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement**

Educate the public about pipeline safety and the importance of calling 811. The Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) will also update public-facing software to report damages. Grant amounts will also support travel to meetings, conferences, and damage prevention demonstrations made to educate various stakeholder groups.

**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).

**Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: "A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.")**

[How did you progress on each of the items/elements provided in the "Specific Objectives" and "Workscope"? How did your progress compare with established objectives? Start with an overall description followed by item-by-item or element-by-element detail if possible.]

The Railroad Commission of Texas is recognized throughout the state as the organization leading the state's damage prevention efforts through compliance and enforcement activities, public awareness, and stakeholder education. The Commission aims to reduce the number of pipeline damage incidents through compliance and education. Damage Prevention hands out "flipbooks" that the Commission had printed, which serve as a handy reference guide to the Commission's Damage Prevention rules. Damage Prevention staff has attended—as well as given—presentations at 27 different events since the start of the grant period. These presentations include Mock Line Strikes at Longview, Beaumont, Pasadena, San Angelo, Waco, El Paso, and San Antonio. Staff were asked to hold a training in Robstown at the LEPC Safe Digging Seminar. The City of San Marcos asked Damage Prevention to have a booth at a city employee event so city workers could be educated on the 811 rules. Damage Prevention Council meetings were also attended in Fort Worth and Round Rock. The Round Rock Damage Prevention Council meeting also included a training class presented by Damage Prevention. Railroad Commission staff also educated contractors and the public on the importance of having underground natural gas lines marked before digging at the 2019 Texas811 Damage Prevention Summit, the largest gathering of industry professionals dedicated to excavation safety and damage prevention in Texas with nearly 500 attendees. In addition to these events, staff were able to attend safety days in Pecos, McAllen, and San Antonio, as well as give presentations in George West. Damage Prevention staff were also able to speak to many homeowners and stakeholders regarding 811 and safe digging practices at booths at Earthx 2019 and the Sunbelt Builder's Show.

The Texas Damage Reporting Form (TDRF) has been updated to be more in line with the changes that were recently made with DIRT. TDRF is still being reviewed for enhancement to create an interface for responsible parties to make payments on any violation penalties that may be assessed.

**Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: "Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.")**

[This may be difficult to explain for every grant project, but we're trying to get a sense of how effective this grant work has been in improving your damage prevention program. If your grant is more data oriented, you likely had some sort of metrics in mind to improve upon. If so, what were those metrics and how does the data look now compared to when the program started? If you're doing something along the lines of enforcement that involves incident review, how many cases have you been able to review/close and/or fines collected compared to before the grant work? If you are working on something more along the lines of public awareness, how many stakeholders have you been able to reach? Even if you don't have the metrics fully defined, put whatever you can here.]

Education has been a priority. Getting the word out about 811 and the Commission's rules has resulted in an increase of calls to 811 as well as a reduction in incidents. The current trend is encouraging considering the amount of growth Texas is experiencing. In Fiscal Year 2008, when the program started, our damages per 1,000 locates was at 6.05. At the end of Fiscal Year 2019, the damages per 1000 locates was reduced to 2.46, down from last fiscal year's 2.76.

Public awareness is one of our priorities. During the grant period, Damage Prevention staff attended 35 events.

**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Final Report:**

**"The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.")**

[If the project has successfully concluded on schedule, simply state that there are no issues, problems or challenge to report. If there have been delays for any reason, explain what they are and how they have impacted the grant work. For instance, with some States, even after an agreement is in place, it has to be sent back to the Governor's office for approval, which takes more time than originally anticipated. Even if work began immediately after the agreement was in place, other delays could have been caused by personnel changes or issues that arose as the project progressed.

The beginning months of the grant period are a little slower regarding outreach opportunities in Texas. The warmer months have more mock line strikes and safety day events planned, so we were then able to focus on educating stakeholders and the public. There were not any issues or challenges to report.

**Final Financial Status Report**

[Per the instructions in Article IX, Section 9.04 of your agreement (included below), the financial status report should be submitted with this final report to the Agreement Administrator (AA) and the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR). Please see instructions below and include supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, spreadsheets, etc. However, if there are any issues with the Financial Status Report or additional explanation is needed, please provide that information here. If there are any delays for whatever reasons, these should be communicated to the AA and AOR in advance.

From Article IX, Section 9.04 of your agreement: "At the end of the grant period, the Recipient must submit a Final Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425 (SF-425), to report the status of all funds. In addition to the SF-425, the Recipient should provide the breakdown of costs for each object class category (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other, and Indirect Charges). The Final Federal Financial Report must be submitted to the AOR and the AA via e-mail, no later than 90 days after the grant period end date (see Section 1.03). If possible this report should be submitted, along with the Final Report, within 30 days after the grant period end date. "

**Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA**

[In most cases, any questions or actions requested of the AOR and PHMSA (such as grant modifications) should have been addressed in advance of filing the report. If this is the case, simply state "No actions requested at this time" or explain any actions that are currently in process. However, if something has come up recently, or if you haven't been able to discuss with the AOR yet, please describe here.]

There are no actions requested at this time.