

IMPORTANT NUCA NEWS:

NUCA Damage Information Reporting Tool

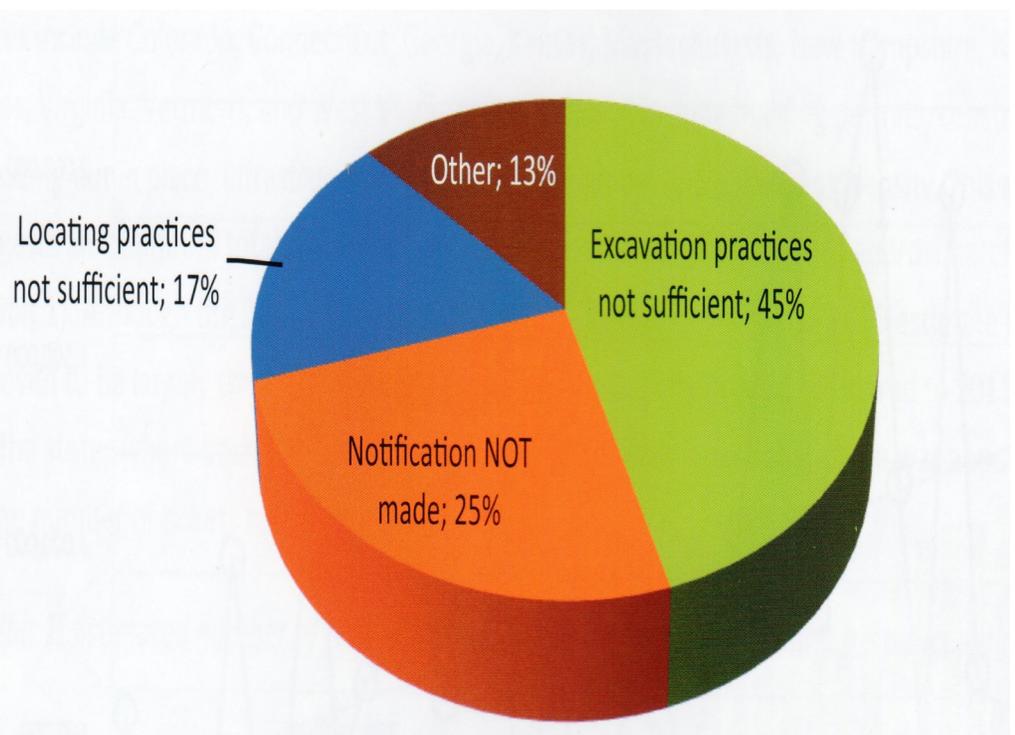
Professional utility contractors and excavators have been slipshod when it comes to inputting information into the CGA DIRT database. Therefore, when CGA creates its annual report, professional contractor data is combined with all other parties that fit within the definition of excavators (i.e., farmers, home owners, railroad crews, and others). As a result, contractors are singled out as culpable for damage events because the data shows that excavators, per the CGA definition, are the leading cause of utility damages.

CGA has developed a set of best practices available to all stakeholders www.commongroundalliance.com. Although these best practices are not regulations, they are in line with many of the state one-call/dig-safe laws, and go above and beyond most regulations. They are a great resource for an excavator or contractor seeking an accurate understanding of the damage prevention process. They are tremendously useful as a guide for establishing a company's damage prevention program.

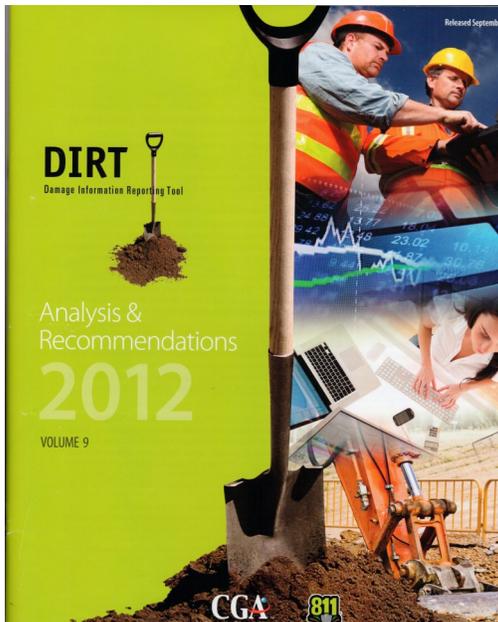
All excavators, utilities, locators, one-call/dig safe systems, and others must take responsibility to prevent utility damage, which simultaneously enhances safety and protects underground facilities. Preventing damage to underground facilities and utilities begins with the excavator calling 811 to request a locate and to provide information about the location and the work to be performed. The accuracy of the information provided is critical to ensuring the correct location is marked by the locator in a timely manner so the work may begin. The information is then forwarded to the appropriate utility locators, who then visit the site where the excavation work will begin after the locator marks the utilities. Before digging, I recommend pot holing to verify the type of utility, as well as its actual location and depth. After all the utilities are marked and verified, the contractor may begin the excavation work.

formed in 2000. NUCA has been a CGA member since the Alliance's founding. The CGA's mission is to help stakeholders prevent utility damages by identifying, developing, and promoting best practices that reduce the number of utility damages.

Since 2003, CGA has been collecting data on utility damages using their Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT). DIRT is a secure web application that allows users to submit damage reports, mismarked utilities, near miss reports, and downtime, along with oth-



All this sounds simple enough, but as you probably already know, there is a lot of room for error. This is why the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a member-driven organization representing 15 groups of stakeholders, was



Reporting Is Up

Since launching DIRT, the number of records submitted has steadily increased each year with almost 63% of estimated damages being submitted into DIRT for 2008. As more companies voluntarily submit data, CGA is better able to report back to the industry on the state of damage prevention throughout North America.

CGA has been doing a great job of collecting information from those interested stakeholders who have submitted their data as to why, from their point of view, a particular damage, mismark, or near miss occurred. Unfortunately, professional utility contractors and excavators have been slipshod when it comes to inputting information into the DIRT. Therefore, when CGA creates its annual report, professional contractor data is combined with all other parties that fit within the definition of excavators (i.e., utility construction crews, municipality crews, farmers, home owners, railroad crews, and others). NUCA representatives believe this leads to contractors

being singled out as culpable when it comes to damage events because the data shows that excavators, per the CGA definition, are the leading cause of utility damages.

At NUCA we know that our membership is well-informed about calling before they dig and that our contractors do make the calls as required by state laws. However, professional contractors often find that there are problems with the marking of many locations. Every contractor can tell stories of how they struck, or nearly struck, an improperly or inadequately marked utility. For this reason, NUCA has embarked on a mission to collect data from NUCA members using NUCA's own DIRT virtual reporting tool.

We need to know more about why our members' hit or come close to hitting utilities – was the utility not marked properly, supposedly abandoned, not on the maps? And a near-miss is just as important to know about as a miss. This information is essential to NUCA in determining the problems

er pertinent information.

Data CGA Collects

Some of the many questions that the CGA is working to answer through the collection of data nationally are:

- ◆ How many damages occur each year?
- ◆ What are the primary causes of damages and near misses?
- ◆ Are these events increasing or decreasing, and why?
- ◆ Are some educational campaigns more effective in preventing damages than others?

In order to better understand where, how and why underground facility damage is occurring, CGA requires accurate and comprehensive data from all stakeholders. The data is analyzed and findings are published in comprehensive reports. The data is not used for enforcement purposes or to try and determine damage liability. The individual identities of parties involved with records submitted are kept confidential.

The primary purpose of collecting underground facility damage data is to analyze data and trends, to learn why damage events occur and to assess how actions by industry can prevent them in the future, thereby ensuring the safety and protection of the public and saving some of the billions of dollars this damage causes every year.

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NUCA and CGA are not complete details refer to manufacturer's warranty policy

our members are facing. It will then be uploaded to CGA's DIRT database to be included in their annual analysis and report. All company identifiers are *confidential*, so do not be concerned that this information could be used against your company.

NUCA DIRT is now up and running and we need our members to input data about one-call notification, location or excavation practices that are not sufficient, as well as other root causes of

To input your information go to www.cga-dirt/nuca

You will need to log in to your member account. Contact NUCA if you have trouble logging in.

utility damage. All information is presented in an online checklist type of form that is simple to fill out. ■

Have You Joined or Renewed Your Safety Ambassadors Club Membership?



Your investment in SAC will assure that NUCA's safety program will continue to provide exceptional safety services to members, as well as

strong representation in the regulatory agencies that propose regulations that can greatly affect our industry and companies. SAC members at the Ambassador level will receive one complimentary registration to the NUCA [Safety Directors Forum](#), a \$475 value. Read long-time member and SAC Club Member Chairman, Greg Strudwick's letter about SAC membership on page 5. Pledge your support using this [SAC pledge form](#).

Is It Time to Review Your Fleet Safety Program?



If your company maintains any size fleet of vehicles, then it is time to ensure that you have an effective fleet safety program. If you currently have a safety program in place, are you sure that the existing program is working as effectively as it should? It is time for you to determine how your fleet safety program compares to those of leading employers in road safety.

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) has provided to the general public a 61-page document designed to assist employers at various stages of road safety program development. The program includes information about preparing a road safety program, creating policies, program development, and safety management systems and intervention. Not only does the guide provide an excellent starting point for companies wanting to start a road safety program. It also serves as a tool for comparing existing fleet safety programs to companies that are leading the way in road safety.

Useful Information for Contractors

The guide starts out by providing information about collecting, analyzing, and disseminating key performance indicators. The guide focuses on the ten most important program elements:

- ◆ Policies
- ◆ Training programs
- ◆ High-risk driver identification and intervention
- ◆ Collision review process and investigation
- ◆ Use of in-vehicle monitoring systems
- ◆ Process to authorize drivers

- ◆ Metrics/performance indicators
- ◆ Mobile phone and other electronic device policy
- ◆ Senior management engagement
- ◆ Administrative controls

The elements are broken down, described in detail with useful examples. Sample policies include mobile phone use, alcohol and drug use policy, driver license policy, and more.

The [NETS' Comprehensive Guide to Road Safety](#) is free.

NETS also worked with OSHA to create [Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes](#) which can be downloaded from OSHA's website

Drive Safety Work Week

Drive Safety Work Week, coming October 6-10, is a great time to take a closer look at you company's fleet safety program and to discuss driver safety with all your employees, even those who don't drive company vehicles. NETS has a tool kit, called "Driving Your Safety Culture Home," which builds the case for executive leadership to adopt safe driving for all employees as a part of the corporate safety culture. The kit provides low-cost tools and ideas to start, expand, and sustain a road safety program. The tool kit can be downloaded at <http://trafficsafety.org>. Either if you have a vehicle safety program in place that you would like to evaluate or improve, or if you would like to implement a new program, then the information in these documents will surely help. Remember, the leading cause of worker deaths on the job is motor vehicle crashes and collisions. ■

Safety Directors Forum

Time to Register

See page 7 for program details.



OSHA Revises Electric Power Generation, Transmission Standard



OSHA has revised the construction standard for electric power line work to make it more consistent with the corresponding general industry standard. In addition, the same requirements for both construction and general industry have also been revised. Here are some examples of the types of injuries and fatalities these standards are expected to prevent:

A crew was working upgrading the battery room at a receiving substation. (The room provided emergency power for up to 8 hours.) The electric utility had purchased replacement batteries from RSC in Wilmington, Calif. Before starting work that day, the crew connected the newly purchased batteries in series. Two workers had requested insulated tools as well as appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, barriers, and an insulated torque wrench. None could be provided on that day, but the employer allowed the work to continue. At about 1:00 p.m., after one worker had connected all the batteries in one rack in series, he made a cross-aisle connection to a second rack. As he was connecting the cross-aisle cable to the last battery on the upper level of the first rack, the other end of the cable dropped. It came too close to the exposed positive terminal of the last battery on the lower level of the same rack, causing an electrical fault. The ensuing electric arc burned the worker's rubber insulating

gloves and melted his left glove into the middle and ring fingers of his left hand. He sustained second- and third-degree burns, requiring surgeries and hospitalization for several days. The employer had not trained his employees in the proper procedures for, and hazards of, working with wet cell batteries.

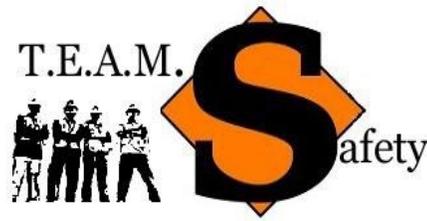
A power line worker was on a new utility pole connecting conductors. He was about nine meters above the ground. After completing the connections, he started to descend the pole. The gaff on his pole climber cut out of the pole. With his body belt around the pole, he fell onto a horizontal down-guy metal support pole for the utility pole. He had surgery and was hospitalized for 14 days with fractured ribs, a fractured pelvis, fractured legs, and internal injuries. The injured employee had been working for his employer for two years, performing duties of an electrical distribution mechanic trainee, including climbing utility poles.

Two power line workers were troubleshooting a blown fuse on a utility pole. They determined that the repair would take less than 15 minutes. For this period, company policy did not require the use of work-zone signs. The employees activated caution strobes on both of their trucks and completed the necessary repairs. As one of the workers was moving the boom on his aerial lift away from the pole, a tractor-trailer struck it. He was ejected and killed.

The final rule includes or revises requirements for fall protection, minimum approach distances, arc-flash protection, and the exchange of safety-related information, as well as requirements for electrical protective equipment.

Although the new rule became effective July 10, 2014, OSHA has delayed compliance for certain requirements and established a temporary enforcement policy. Information about [the temporary policy](#) can be viewed on OSHA's website.

The [final rule](#) can be obtained from the OSHA website. ■



Utility Contracting Safety Consultants

October 1, 2014

Dear NUCA Members:

It's no secret that federal agencies in the current Administration have significantly ramped-up proposed rules and regulations.

The Safety Ambassador's Club (SAC) has always been an effective way to raise funds that allow NUCA to react quickly to new or updated regulations proposed by OSHA, DOT or, in some cases, EPA (Hazcom). Proposals that affect our industry disrupt our operations and often include specific compliance requirements that require significant expense.

Jobsite and employee safety have always been a top NUCA priority and, over the decades, we've developed an exceptional safety program for underground contractors and excavators. NUCA's safety program offers outstanding training, consulting services, a bi-monthly safety newsletter, and an active safety and damage prevention committee. Maintaining a strong safety culture in our industry is critical, not only for the success of our businesses, but the continuing education and safety of our employees.

When NUCA established the Safety Ambassador's Club 23 years ago, its sole purpose was to develop a top-notch safety program and create a strong safety culture among our members. By offering programs, services, and information that our contractor members could use for daily operations at their jobsites, we help ensure they stay in compliance with hundreds of safety requirements and assure the safety of their employees.

SAC's demonstrated commitment to safety has allowed NUCA to maintain its credibility with the federal agencies that regulate our industry and gain access to key safety policy makers when new regulations are proposed. NUCA's insightful and strong opposition to OSHA's recent proposal to changes to its Crystalline Silica standard prompted OSHA to redirect the proposal back to the drawing board. The requirements of the proposed regulations could have cost member companies thousands of dollars to comply. This is just one of many examples of how NUCA, through SAC funding, has successfully prompted major improvements to regulations that affect our industry.

Your investment in SAC will assure that NUCA's safety program will continue to provide exceptional safety services to members, as well as strong representation in the regulatory agencies that propose regulations that can greatly affect our industry and companies. This coming year, we will utilize SAC funds to successfully launch our brand new damage prevention reporting tool, NUCA DIRT.

Please join me in investing in the Safety Ambassadors Club this year at one of three levels:

- 1) Safety Ambassador (\$1,000)
- 2) Safety Diplomat (\$500)
- 3) Safety Delegate (\$250)

SAC members at the Ambassador level receive one complimentary registration to the NUCA Safety Directors Forum, a \$475 value. This practical and very popular NUCA event will give your safety personnel the opportunity to discuss important safety issues with other safety professionals, as well as participate in an open forum where knowledgeable professionals can brainstorm and share ideas.

Be sure to join the Safety Ambassadors' Club by October 15 to guarantee your spot at the Safety Directors Forum. This year's forum will be held October 28 and 29 in New Orleans. Visit NUCA.com and click on the Safety Directors Forum box on the home page for more information.

As a 21-year member of the Safety Ambassadors Club, I can attest that SAC funding allows NUCA to keep its safety program strong, providing safety training programs important up-to-date information, materials, and news that contractors need. Please consider joining SAC with a generous contribution. Simply send your completed [pledge form](#) and donation and fax or mail your pledge form to NUCA., 3925 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030., fax (703.358.9300).

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (800) 426-8920 or NUCA's Vice President of Safety, George Kennedy at (518) 885-2560.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Best regards,



Greg Strudwick
Chairman, NUCA Safety Ambassadors Club

2014 SAFETY DIRECTORS FORUM



NEW ORLEANS



OCTOBER 28 & 29

NUCA

New Orleans

Sponsored by NUCA's 2014 National Partners:

SPEAKER TOPICS:

Situational Awareness, NUCA Virtual Dirt, Industrial Hygiene, Aging Workforce, Roadway Safety Programs, Heavy Equipment Safety, and our popular Open Forums

TO REGISTER VISIT

www.nuca.com

NUCA Member Registration: \$475

Non-Member Registration: \$675

Complimentary registration for NUCA Safety Ambassadors and 2014 National Partners.