



Common Ground Alliance

# Digging Deeper

...and making what works, work better.



# COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE

## **CGA Mission** *(Purpose of the CGA)*

Provide clear and tangible value to our stakeholders by helping to reduce damages to North America's underground infrastructure. The CGA works cooperatively, fostering a sense of shared responsibility to enhance safety and protect underground facilities by:

- Identifying and disseminating the stakeholder best practices;
- Developing and conducting public awareness and education programs;
- Sharing and disseminating damage prevention tools and technology
- Serving as the premier resource for damage and one call center data collection, analysis and dissemination.

## **CGA Vision** *(Desired future state CGA is working to create)*

CGA is making significant, measurable progress in creating a damage prevention culture across North America...on every site, every day. Calling before digging is the norm, with all underground utilities identifiable and accurately mapped. Data is used to systematically address root cause issues and shows a trend of declining numbers of incidents.



# BEST PRACTICES

- **GOAL**: CGA's Best Practices are regarded and utilized as the preeminent and trusted resource for underground damage prevention.



# BEST PRACTICES

## 5–1:One Call Facility Locate Request

### Practice Statement:

- The excavator requests the location of underground facilities at each site by notifying the facility owner/operator through the one call center. Unless otherwise specified in state/provincial law, the excavator calls the one call center at least two working days and no more than ten working days prior to beginning excavation.

### Practice Description:

- Currently 50 states and 5 Canadian provinces have one call legislation and/or established one call centers recognizing that excavation performed without prior notification poses a risk to public safety, excavators, and the environment, and can disrupt vital services provided by facility operators. Increased participation in this one call system provides for improved communication between excavators and facility operators necessary to reduce damage



# BEST PRACTICES

**Excavate or Excavation:** Any operation using non-mechanized or mechanized equipment, demolition, or explosives in the movement of earth, rock, or other material below existing grade.

**Excavator:** Any person proposing to or engaging in excavation or demolition work for himself or for another person.



# BEST PRACTICES 10.0

- **3–26: One Call Membership**
- **Practice Statement:** Any entity that furnishes or transports products or services to a third party for its use or consumption by means of an underground facility or furnishes or transports products or services for its own internal use by means of an underground facility that occupies or crosses a right-of-way or utility easement is a member of a one call center.



# BEST PRACTICES 10.0

## Practice Description:

- Underground damage prevention begins with a notice of intent to excavate submitted by an excavator to the appropriate one call center. The process of notification depends on all affected member facility operators being notified of intent to excavate through the regional one call center.
- Membership in the one call center by underground facility operators ensures that potential conflicts with existing facilities that may be encountered during excavation activities are identified by using a single regional point of contact. Operators of the aforementioned underground facilities who fail to become members of their local one call center risk public safety and damage to their facilities, and endanger excavators who may come into contact with these aforementioned underground facilities.



# BEST PRACTICES 10.0

The following are examples of an underground facility that would probably not require one call center membership:

- The internal use of owned underground facilities to provide safe operations in controlled rights of ways, such as railroad operating corridors that facilitate the transportation of freight or passengers.
- The internal use of an entity's underground facilities by that entity solely on its own property. (Note: aboveground use of one's rights of way or property, such as the transportation of freight or passengers by rail, is not within the purview of the CGA Best Practices.)

References:

- State One Call Laws, 1999 Common Ground Study

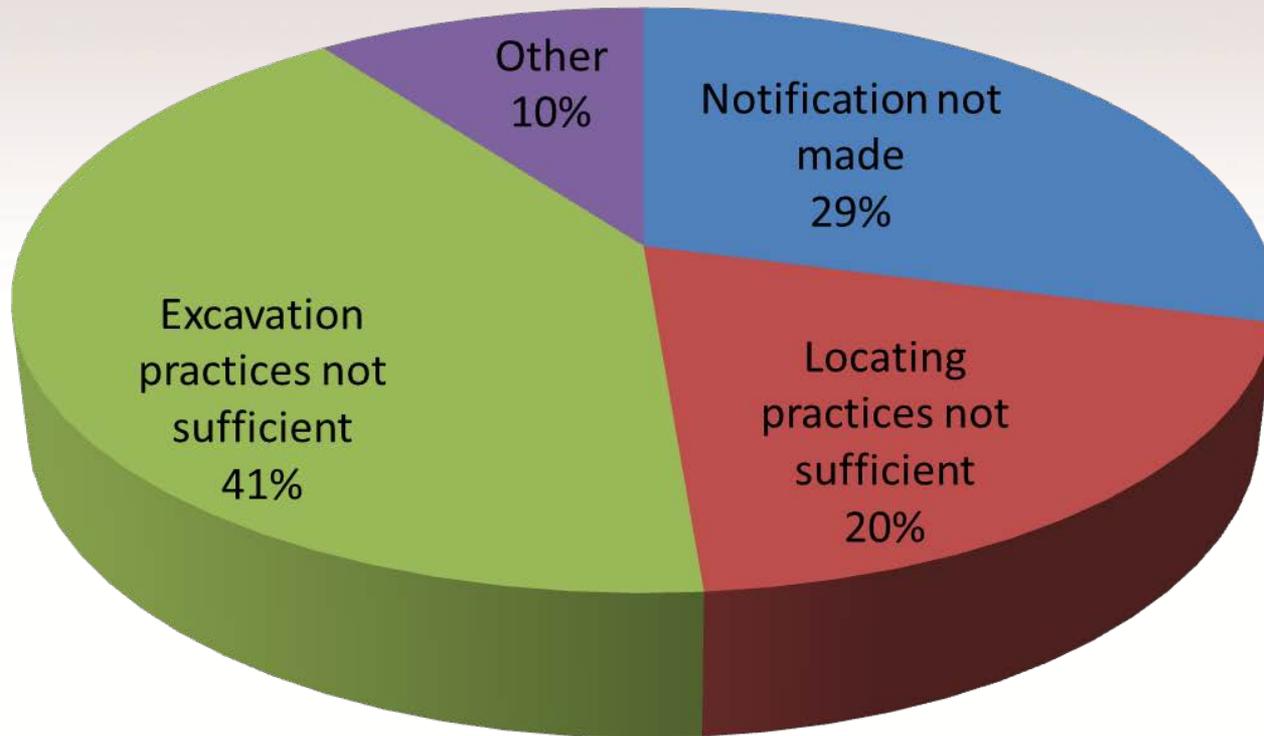


# Damage Information Reporting Tool - 2011

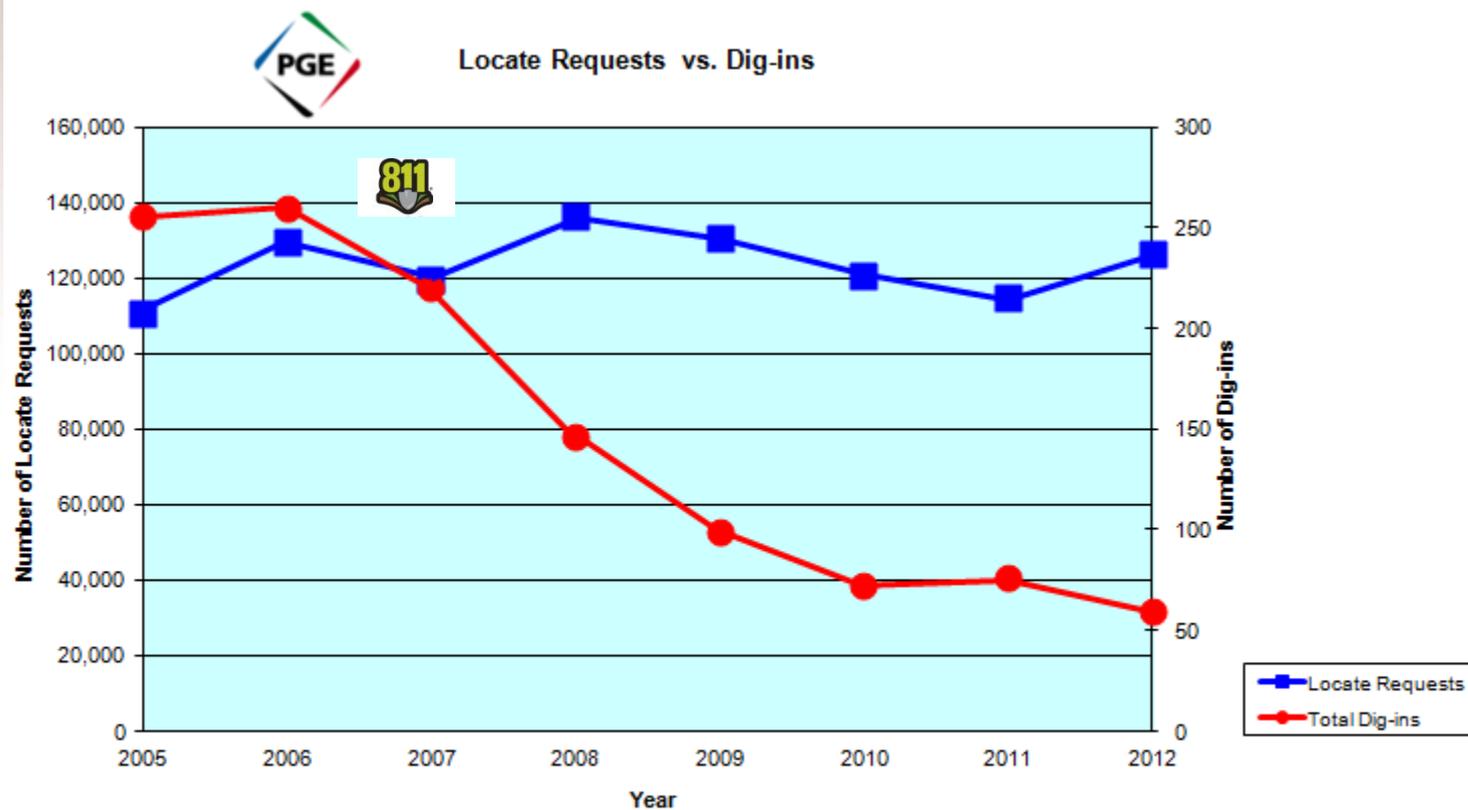
- “...industry data collected for 2011 suggests that less than one percent of excavations preceded by a one call notification experience damages.”
- “Analysis of the damages reported to the CGA’s DIRT database for 2010 further demonstrates that approximately one-third (26%) were the result of the failure to make notification prior to excavation.”
- “...a call to the one call center (811) is therefore the simplest and most effective means to reduce or eliminate excavation related underground utility damages.”



# D.I.R.T. – GAS DISTRIBUTION



# Reducing Damages



The above graph shows the relationship between the number of locate requests received by Portland General Electric and the number of respective dig-in damages that were recorded from 2005 through 2012.

