

2010 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-10-SN-0001
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH56-10-G-PHPS11

Project Title: Nebraska Pipeline Safety Division State Damage Prevention

Date Submitted: August 31, 2010

Submitted by: Clark Conklin, Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Pipeline Safety Division
Susan Lynch, Common Ground of Nebraska

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Nebraska State Fire Marshal/Pipeline Safety Division will undertake the following activities in cooperation with Common Ground of Nebraska, a Regional Common Ground Alliance: 1) Develop and implement an Annual Underground Safety Summit; 2) Continue delivering the successful Underground Locator Workshops and expand the curriculum to include basic and advanced instruction; and 3) Increase damage prevention public awareness with outreach materials.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 USC§60134 through the actions it has specified in its Application.

Element (2): 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 (4): 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.

Element (5): A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.

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.”)

On August 5, 2010, The Common Ground of Nebraska hosted an Underground Safety Summit open to all Stakeholders involved with underground damage prevention in the State of Nebraska. The agenda consisted of:

- Nebraska One Call Overview and Safe Excavation
- Gas/Pipeline Safety Demonstration
- Electrical Safety Outdoor Demonstration
- HydroVac Excavation Outdoor Demonstration
- Nebraska Marking Standards Outdoor Demonstration
- Vendor Displays

In conjunction with the Underground Safety Summit on August 5 – The Common Ground of Nebraska also hosted an Underground Locator Workshop prior to the Safety Summit. The Workshop focused upon an Advanced Curriculum with both Classroom Theory and Outdoor Hands-on instruction. In an effort to promote not only the upcoming summit, but also the message of safe excavation, the Common Ground of Nebraska conducted two separate mass mailings along with 13 billboard advertisements in multiple counties across Nebraska.

The Safety Summit fostered the support and partnership of all stakeholders. The planning and execution of the Safety Summit was a combined effort of individuals representing telecom, municipalities, pipeline operators, member utility locators, contract locators, one call, equipment manufacturers and excavators. Attendance at the Summit included the above stakeholder groups along with power, first responders and county/state representatives. The agenda of the summit featured gas and power demonstrations, one call education, hydrovac excavation, locating and marking best practices and underground locating education providing for training and education opportunities for all stakeholder employees.

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.”)

Two separate bulk mailings were conducted in an effort to both promote the upcoming Underground Safety Summit and educate on the need to Call Before You Dig. Each mailing consisted of a 1,506 mailing list. A total of 13 Billboards were purchased in several counties.

Fifty-four individuals participated in the Advanced Underground Locating workshop hosted by the Common Ground of Nebraska and a total of 101 stakeholders attended the Underground Safety Summit.

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

We have has no issues thus far.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

The mid-term financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Mass mailing of a three-fold brochure focusing on the agriculture community with a distribution in the Nebraska Rural areas educating on Underground Damage Prevention and Safe Digging.

Underground Locate Workshop in the Western Part of the State

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.