

**2011 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**  
**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-11-SN-0001**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-11-G-PHPS09

**Project Title:** Nebraska Pipeline Safety Division State Damage Prevention

**Date Submitted:** May 7, 2012

**Submitted by:** Clark Conklin, Chief Deputy Fire Marshal, Pipeline Safety Section

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

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

- Develop and implement methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

### **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 (1):* Participation by operators, 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):* 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.”)**

#### **Element 1 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- Statewide education and distribution of White Marking Flags proceeded with an educational mailer/order form.
- Mass mailing of informational brochure sent May 27, 2010 to 9,522 excavators across Nebraska. Distributed 24,000 white flags to excavators in response to that mailing.

#### **Element 4 – EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

- Underground Locator Workshops
- Advanced Locate Workshop is scheduled for September 29, 2011 in Beatrice, NE.

**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**

- Statewide education and distribution of White Marking Flags proceeded with an educational mailer/ order form.
- Provided educational 811 and white-lining information to 9,522 contractors statewide. Provided white marking flags to increase the occurrence of pre-marking the dig site to 480 requesting excavators across the State of Nebraska.

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

No issues at this time.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

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

**Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)**

**Element 1 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- Statewide education and distribution of White Marking Flags proceeded with an educational mailer/order form.
- Second mailing of the remaining 10,000 tri-folds and the tubes with the last of 50,000 white flags was completed.

**Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT**

- Safety Summit was a success with over 70 attendees. CGA Best Practices manuals were distributed along with Safety Vests and Safety T-shirts.
- Speaker topics included:
  - Training on Trenching and Shoring Safety
  - Incident Investigations
  - Underground Utility Markings and what they mean
  - Updates on Nebraska Digger’s Hotline issues
- There was also an Excavator and Underground utility operator’s round table discussion.

**Element 4 – EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

- Underground Locator Workshops
- An Advanced Locator Training Workshop in Norfolk, NE was attended by 62 attendees looking to further their education on locating skills.

**Element 5 – Public Education**

- Radio advertising in rural communities stressing the importance of agricultural awareness during farming operations and the prime harvest time.
- Mailing safety brochures targeting the larger community farmers along with safety tips sent to all grain elevators.
- Billboards advertising in all metro and rural communities across Nebraska showing the importance of 811 and call before you dig, keeping everyone safe.

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

No actions requested at this time.