

2015 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH-56-14-GPPS16

Project Title: Nebraska State Fire Marshal State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: April 28, 2016

Submitted by: Clark Conklin

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the Nebraska Pipeline Safety Division will be utilized to strengthen awareness and partnership of all Stakeholder's in Nebraska Underground Damage Prevention while communicating the identified Best Practices in all Stakeholder industries through promotion, outreach and education.

Workscope

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Recipient will address the following elements listed in the approved application as stated in 49 U.S.C. §60134 (b).

- **Element 1 (EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS):** Participation by operators, excavators, 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 (COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT):** 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 5 (PUBLIC EDUCATION):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.
- **Element 9 (DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM REVIEW):** A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews.

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

White Flag Education and Giveaway: To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit: the momentum continues for another year as the event held on February 24, 2016 grew in all areas from attendance to course offerings and positive feedback from attendees. Invitations reached all stakeholders and members that had placed a locate request in the previous six months which totaled 8,084 addresses and 6,002 email addresses. Vendor participation was heavily solicited and achieved positive results based on the amount of interactions and feedback to the expanded program which included incentives for interaction between attendees and vendors. The event was able to expand in other areas due to outside monetary support which

allowed for excavator skills tests, t-shirt giveaways, meals, prizes and venue decorative enhancements. One hundred percent distribution of color code cards and CGA Best Practice manuals was achieved due to the high number of attendees. The keynote speaker received high praise in the evaluations, as did the venue. A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders was achieved through the classes offered and an excavator rodeo. In one class all stakeholders demonstrated their role in a line hit simulation. Free online registration also supplemented the event and contributed to its success in reaching a wide variety of stakeholders totaling 728.

Attachments:

- Sign in sheet
- Agenda
- Invitations
- Mailing lists
- Attendee check-in lists

Damage Prevention Groups: Of the two groups planned, one is meeting in the Lincoln area and successfully organized with good attendance. One meeting was held September 2015 and the other will be held May 5, 2016. The other group in the Kearney area is still in the planning stages with strong support for the concept indicated in the area. There were several nominations for the Outstanding Excavator and Locator Awards.

Attachments:

- Invitation for Lincoln Common Ground Meeting
- Mailing list for Lincoln Common Ground Meeting
- Nomination solicitation for Awards
- Pictures of award winners and trophies

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: Campaigns to support National Safe Digging Month were successfully executed. Feedback was received from attendees stating that the billboards were a reminder to register for the event. Further attention is drawn to the use of billboards via the supplemental use of social media and combining it with other outreach projects.

Attachments:

- Billboard graphics
- Billboard schedule

Radio: To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

Excavator Breakfasts: Invitations were sent for Excavator Breakfasts throughout Nebraska. Attendance at the events exceeded expectations.

Attachments:

- Invitations
- Attendee Check-In Lists

Element 9 – DAMAGE REPORTING TOOL

To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

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

White Flag Education and Giveaway: No activity to date.

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit: Attendance for this event increased by 30% over the previous year. From 560 to 728. Vendor participation increased from 32 to 35. Physical invitations reached 8,084 excavators and members and email invitations reached 6,002 addresses.

Damage Preventions Groups: Word of mouth has caused an increase in the invitation list as well as the attendance in the first two meetings. Both Excavator and Locator awards were presented. Twenty-four nominations for the locator award were received and three for the Excavator award.

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: Billboards were posted in 18 different locations around Nebraska throughout the month of April.

Excavator Breakfasts: Five Excavator breakfasts were held in January 2016 with attendance totaling 204.

Radio: No activity to date.

Element 9 – DAMAGE REPORTING TOOL

To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

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, problems or challenges to report.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit: Total reimbursable expenditure is \$19,658.70.

Damage Prevention Group: Total reimbursable expenditure is \$300.00.

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: Total Reimbursable expenditure is \$7,500.00.

Excavator Breakfasts: Total reimbursable expenditure is \$3,472.81.

See attached spreadsheet for breakdown

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

Element 1 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

White Flag Education and Giveaway: Printing and mailing of the flyer to all excavators that have placed a locate request in Nebraska in the past year, will be completed by June 1, 2016. Flag orders will be taken and mailed up until September 1, 2016 or until supplies run out.

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit: This project is complete. There are no plans for the remainder of the period.
Damage Prevention Groups: Two more meetings each are planned for the Lincoln area and the Kearney area.

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: An additional campaign surrounding 811 Day is planned.
Radio: A full campaign is planned for the main digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.
Excavator Breakfasts: There is one more Excavator Meeting planned for June 16 in Sidney.

Element 9 – DAMAGE REPORTING TOOL

Further exploration into how this project can be fully executed by the end of the period is in process.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.