

**2013 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report**  
**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-13-SN-000001**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-13-G-PHPS01

**Project Title:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** September 15, 2013 through September 14, 2014

**Submitted by:** Jon Wolfgram

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

- Develop and implement methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Reviewing the adequacy of internal performance measures
- Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education
- Resolving disputes to define State authority's role
- Foster and promote the use of improving technologies
- Review the effectiveness of Damage Prevention Programs

**Workscope**

**Article III.      *Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement***

Under the terms of this grant agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 U.S.C. § 60134 (b) through the actions it has specified in its Application.

- **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 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement):** A process for reviewing the adequacy of a pipeline operator's internal performance measures regarding persons performing locating services and quality assurance programs.
- **Element 4 (Effective Employee Training):** 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 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.
- **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.
- **Element 7 (Enforcement):** Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority.

- **Element 8 (Technology):** A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs.
- **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 the grant period (Item 1 under Agreement Article IX, : “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)**

Objective	Accomplishments (approximate numbers based on grant period as of report date)
Enforcement actions follow-up collections – specific to SDP Grant	37 Damage Prevention investigations have been opened, with 5 violations cited as a result of investigations funded by the SDP Grant.
In-office/Field investigations and research	<p>During 2014 the efficiency to conduct damage prevention field investigation has been enhanced with the use of computerized tablets (Apple iPad's) using GIS software (ARCGIS) and application software. This allows on-site entry of descriptive information, photos, GPS coordinates into the GIS software which contains geographic mapping, topographic as well interstate pipeline locations.</p> <p>Intrastate gas pipeline operators are selected for specialized damage prevention inspections based on risk. The risk is determined by the number of damages they have had in the previous years combined with the number of tickets, the number of miles of gas pipe and the duration since the last inspection. Each inspection reviews the operator's program and its approach to damage prevention. When it is determined a program is not effective, appropriate actions will be taken to ensure that each issue is addressed.</p>
Statistical analysis and complaint and incident trending	<p>As summarized below, Volunteer Damage Reporting, (VDR) is requested from all underground utilities. Mandatory gas leak reporting is required for all regulated intrastate operator excavation related leaks. MNOPS currently uses various management reports from the OPS system which track case volumes, penalties assessed, penalties collected and rescinded, educational sessions</p>

	<p>w/ number of attendees, accidents/incidents, complaints, and pipeline specific inspections/complaints, enforcement actions by type, and complaints by type. This information is used in month by month and year by year comparisons and analysis and can be sorted as a whole or by individual operators and/or excavators.</p> <p>MNOPS has also implemented the Voluntary Damage Reporting (VDR) program which has been populated with data since 1996. The information is used by MNOPS and others to determine: the extent of excavation related damages, the causes of excavation related damages, trend damages over time, and as a tool for evaluating (or benchmarking) damage prevention efforts. The information is also used by MNOPS to direct resources where they would provide the most benefit in reducing damage and ultimately increasing public safety. VDR results are made available on the MNOPS website.</p> <p>As shown in the figures below, underground damages for 2013 for gas facility and all utilities were 2.06 and 1.55 damages per 1000 locates respectively. In spite of year to year variability it appears the overall trend appears to be a reduction in the rate of damage to underground facilities.</p> <p>The largest percentage of damages for all utilities are attributed to failure to hand dig (32%), with failure to call in a locate ticket accounting for 18% of damages to all utilities.</p>
Court proceedings and conciliations	<p>If MNOPS and the party receiving a notice of probable violation cannot reach an agreement through existing departmental processes, the issue is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to handle state court proceedings and conciliations as needed.</p>
Compliance monitoring of one-call center operations, Frequent offenders, and types of offenses	<p>The Pipeline Safety Director sits on the one-call center board.</p> <p>The Damage Prevention program lead, sits on the one-call center communications committee. Participation in these groups allows MNOPS to continually monitor the one call center activities. Additionally MNOPS collects and reviews all pipeline related gas releases due to excavation related activities. This allows MNOPS to track and appropriately address</p>

	frequent offenders.
Rules and law review	<p>Proposed statutory changes to the damage prevention law were placed on hold by the Governor's office and were not considered during the 2014 session. This was done to allow an emphasis on removing obsolete or unnecessary statutes. MNOPS hopes to visit the topic in a future session. In the interim, MNOPS is focusing on building working relationships among the stakeholder groups through structures such as MNCGA and its committees, which may result in further consensus on improving damage prevention through statutory changes.</p>
<p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safety presentations to excavators</li> <li>▪ Safety &amp; training presentations for Operators &amp; locators</li> <li>▪ Annual conference with Damage Prevention track</li> <li>▪ Safety messages for the general population</li> </ul>	<p>MNOPS is currently scheduling damage prevention meetings for 2015. The meetings will consist of a presentation reviewing the excavation laws in Minnesota. During the grant period, 81 presentations were conducted throughout Minnesota where over 4000 excavators / utility operators were engaged regarding damage prevention and underground utility safety. This is a significant increase in the 40 presentations with 2500 attendees reported in the 2012 grant period.</p> <p>The meetings are refined by obtaining feedback from attendees, feedback and comments from UCC groups, review of collected damage report data in the OPS system and discussions with excavators. Presentations are also available on the MNOPS and MNCGA websites to provide a computer based training opportunity to those interested.</p> <p>MNOPS gave a damage prevention focused presentation at the 2014 National CGA and the 2014 Iowa DP Summit "The Marks Mean Something - How They're Interpreted Means Everything" This presentation is attached.</p> <p>In 2014 MNOPS has published the first addition of its Damage Prevention Newsletter. (Copy attached) This will be a semi-annual publication covering damage prevention issues. It is published on the MNOPS website and distributed to those on the MNOPS excavator and operator contact list.</p>

	<p>MNOPS sponsored and presented at the MNOPS Spring Educational Conference which included damage prevention topics. The conference agenda is attached.</p> <p>For the periodical Damage Prevention Professional MNOPS authored an article “Penalties and Consequences of not calling before you dig” (Spring 2014) (See attached), as well as a report on results of Minnesota 811 Run (Fall 2014).</p> <p>In 2013, the SDP grant was used to establish greater focus on underground utility damages as a result of Agricultural Tiling. In 2014 the stakeholder membership diversity have increased. An Ag Awareness Committee has been created to focus on education and awareness of excavation safety in rural agricultural areas. To provide a formal structure and to efficient use of available resources such as web access, this group has been incorporated as a committee in the Minnesota Regional CGA (discussed below).</p> <p>MNOPS, in cooperation with the MNCGA, is developing publications that will be focused on damage prevention issues that are most relevant to farmer/rural excavators. These publications will be available electronically and as hardcopies for distribution to excavators and the interested public through various distribution channels such as equipment dealers, drain tile suppliers and excavating equipment rental stores.</p> <p>As summarized below, the SDP grant was used to attend and contribute to 6 Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) educational meetings throughout Minnesota. These presentations are provided by pipeline operators for first responders.</p>
Involvement in Regional Minnesota Common Ground Alliance(MNCGA)	<p>MNOPS has played a major role in the formulation of the Minnesota Regional Common Ground Alliance (MNCGA) and its Damage Prevention, Agricultural Awareness,</p>

	Marketing and Special Projects Subcommittees. MNOPS has provided members as well as officers for these committees. Thus far the MNCGA has worked closely with all utilities to ensure a consistent, unified approach to addressing Damage Prevention Education. MNOPS participated in 5 Regional MNCGA meetings during the 2013 grant period. MNOPS will continue its regular involvement with several Utility Coordinating Committees (UCC's) throughout MN
Active Participation in area Utility Coordinating Committees	MNOPS participated in the meetings of Minnesota's four Utility Coordinating Committees.
Participation in the one-call center Operations and Communications Committees	MNOPS Participated in all Gopher State One Call Operations and Communications Committee meetings.

***Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: "Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.")***

#### **Summary of SDP Case Types Opened During Grant Period.**

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Case Count</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Accident/Investigation	39	130.8
Administration	25	639.5
One Call or Pipeline Inquiry/Complaint	40	122.25
Presentation	81	650.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1543.05</b>

#### **Summary of Damage Prevention Meeting Presentations During Grant Period**

##### **DAMAGE PREVENTION MEETINGS (September 15, 2013 to September 14, 2014)**

##### **Excavator Meeting, 94.5 hours**

2014 DPP as Guest Speaker for APWA UUCIS  
2014 DPP for DSM Excavating - Hastings  
2014 DPP for Lametti & Sons  
2014 DPP for Mn/DOT Soil Conference - Mankato  
2014 DPP for Parson's Electric - Fridley  
2014 Fehn Companies Safety Meeting - St. Michael  
2014 Local 49'ers Union Training Facility (3/24)

##### **Pipeline CAER, Meeting Hours, 33.5 hours**

2014 CAER Meeting - Monticello  
2014 CAER Meeting - Woodbury  
CAER Meeting  
CAER meeting in Chaska  
CAER Meeting in Gaylord  
CAER Meeting in Little Falls

2014 Local 49'ers Union Training Facility (3/31)  
2014 Park Rapids DPP (Pizza Ranch)  
2014 Ramsey Safety Meeting  
AMES Construction Tool Box Talk  
C&L Excavating  
DPP - 49ers Hinckley  
DPP for Kuechle Excavating at Kimball, MN  
DPP for Northwest Asphalt in Shakopee Office  
DPP for Parsons Electric instead of penalty  
St. Cloud Presentation at Kelly Inn

#### **GSOC, Meeting Hours, 164 hours**

49ers DPP 2/27/2014 (25 attendees)  
49ers DPP  
49ers DPP Hinckley Feb 10 (32 attendees)  
Ag Awareness - Alexandria  
Castrejon Safety DPP (22 Attendees)  
Contractor Day MMUA DPP (54 attendees)  
DPP Brainerd  
DPP City of Mpls.  
DPP Crookston  
DPP Foley  
DPP Hinckley - 49ers - 3/10/2014  
DPP Hinckley Regional CGA  
DPP Thief River Falls  
GM Contracting - DPP Mankato  
Hentges Safety Days Presentation - Shakopee  
LaTour Construction DPP (25 attendees)  
Parsons Electric/Morehead Electric (9 attendees)  
Pipeline Ag Awareness - Fergus Falls  
Road Authority meeting in Brainerd

#### **Operator, Meeting Hours, 28 hours**

2014 DPP for Connexus Energy - Ramsey  
DPP - Grand Forks  
North Central Elec. Assoc 2014 Delivery Workshop  
Willmar Area Locator Workshop (40 attendees)

#### **Grand Total Hours, All Meetings, 650 hours**

**Total Attendees - All Meetings, 4261 attendees**

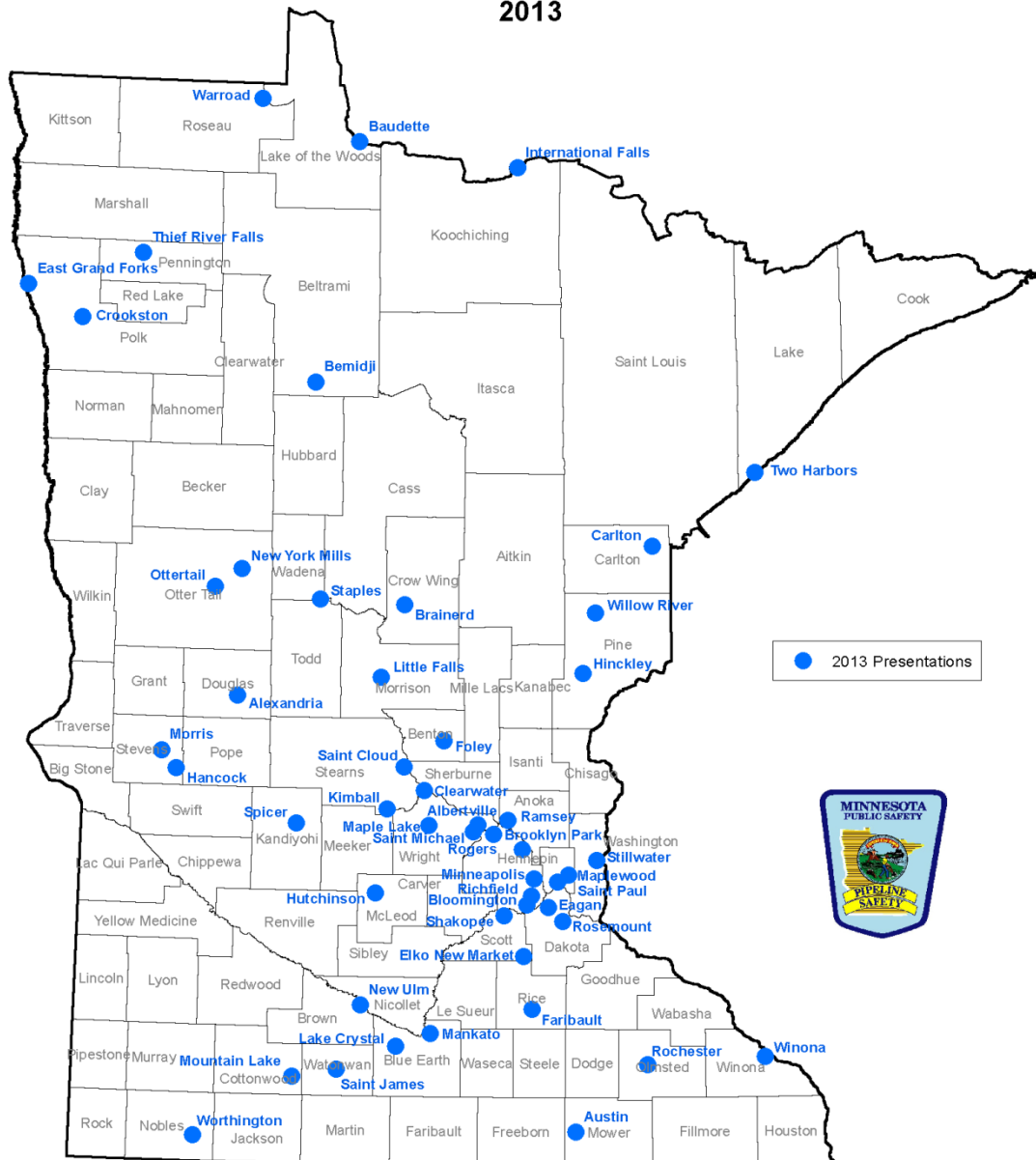
#### **Public Ed. (State Fair, etc.), Meeting Hours, 108 hours**

2014 Damage Prevention Summit (70 attendees)  
2014 DPP Prep and Presentations  
Agricultural Awareness Public Opportunities  
Mlaskoch DPP  
MN State FD Association Conference\_Owatonna  
Public Education Opportunities  
Scott Cty Chiefs of Police Association (14 attendees)

#### **UCC, Meeting Hours, 222.5 hours**

2014 MUCC - Maplewood  
2014 MUCC - Shakopee  
Baudette DPP (43 attendees)  
Bemidji DPP  
Brooklyn Park DPP (172 attendees)  
DPP - Austin  
DPP - MUCC - Rosemount  
DPP - New Ulm  
DPP - Ramsey MN (250 attendees)  
DPP Alexandria  
DPP Rochester  
DPP Worthington  
Grand Rapids DPP  
Hutchinson DPP Meeting (220 attendees)  
International Falls DPP (44 attendees)  
LUCC Meeting in Brainerd  
LUCC meeting in Brainerd (29 attendees)  
Mankato PUCC DPP (217 attendees)  
Marshall PUCC DPP (46 attendees)  
Morris UCC DPP (31 attendees)  
New York Mills DPP (140 attendees)  
Owatonna PUCC DPP (180 attendees)  
Proctor Area DPP (45 attendees)  
PUCC Meeting in Faribault  
Roseau/Warroad DPP  
Spice/Willmar area DPP (130 attendees)  
Two Harbors area DPP  
Winona DPP (94 attendees)

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY  
PIPELINE SAFETY AND DAMAGE PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS  
2013**



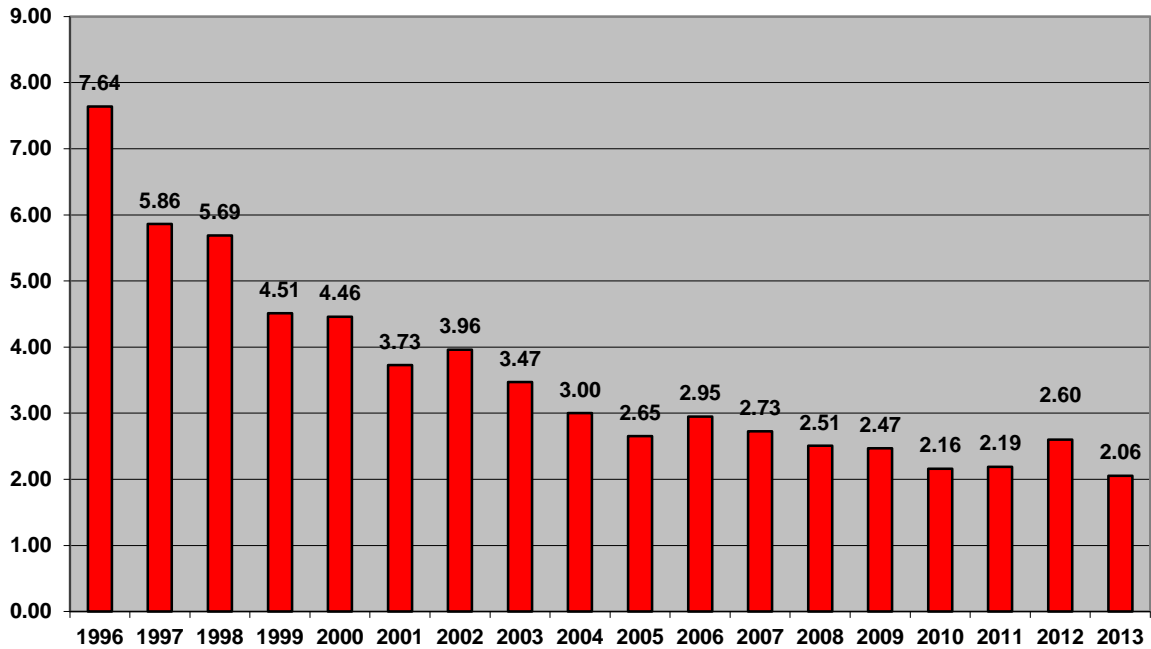
Prepared by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Pipeline Safety, March 4, 2014.

**Geographic Distribution of DP Presentation During 2013 Calendar Year.**

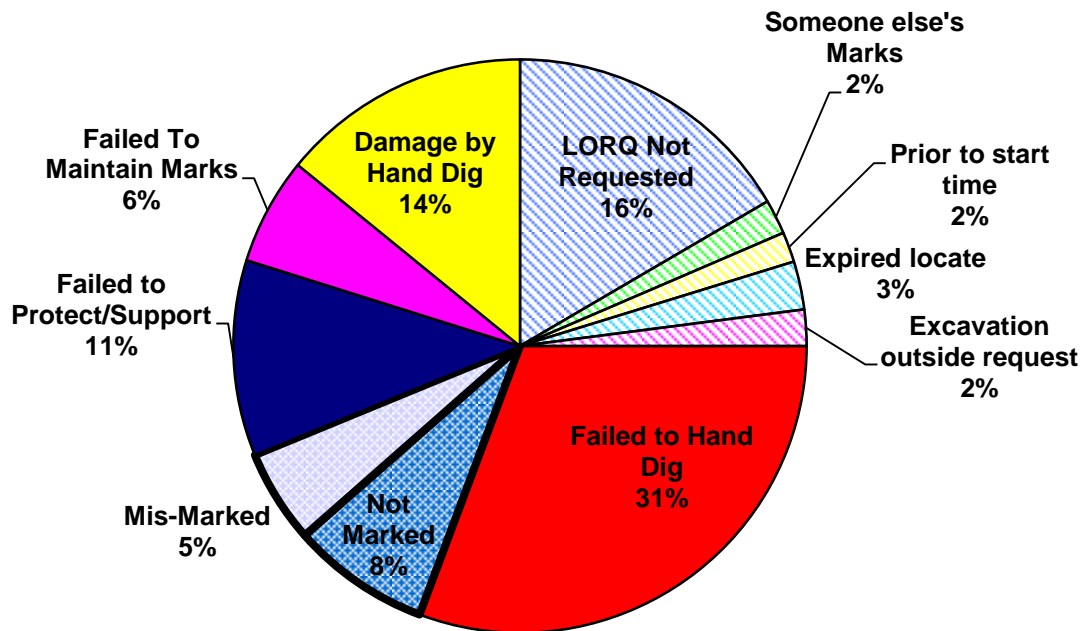


**Summary of Damage Data:**

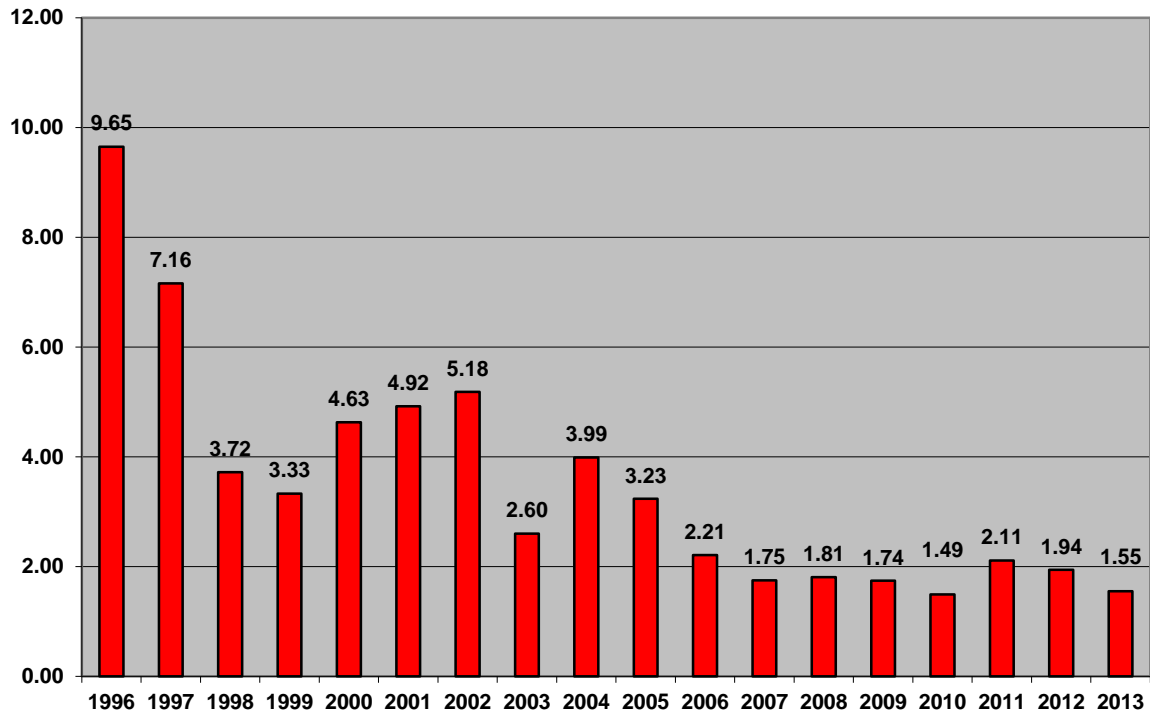
**Gas - Damages PER 1000 Locates**



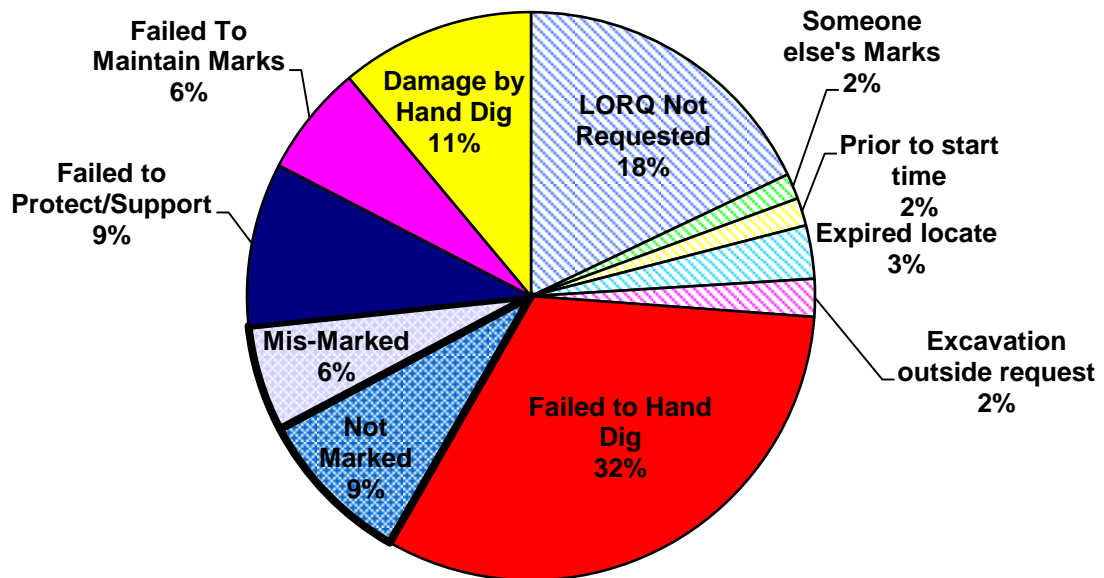
**2013 Gas**



### All Utilities - DAMAGES PER 1000 Locates



### 2013 Damages by Cause - All Utilities



**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.021 Final Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met. “)**

MNOPS has not encountered any issues or challenges thus far.

**Final Financial Status Report**

The final financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.

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

No actions requested at this time.