

2016 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: DTPH56-16-G-SDP17

Project Title: Nebraska State Fire Marshal State Damage Prevention Grant

Date Submitted: March 31, 2017

Submitted by: Clark Conklin

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

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

- Develop and implement methods for effective communication
- Foster support and partnership with stakeholders
- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

Element 1: White Flag Giveaway

Element 2: Safety Summit, Damage Prevention Groups

Element 5: Billboards, Radio, TV, Breakfasts

Element 9: Damage Reporting Tool

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.
- **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

Statewide education and distribution of white marking flags proceeded with an educational mailer-order form.

To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. 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, 2017. Flag orders will be taken and mailed up until September 1, 2017 or until supplies run out.

Element 2: COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit – the momentum continues for another year as the event held on February 22, 2017 grew in most areas including positive feedback from attendees. Invitations reached all stakeholders and members that had placed a locate request in the previous six months which totaled 7,933 physical addresses and 9,378 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. 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. Free online registration also supplemented the event and contributed to its success in reaching a wide variety of stakeholders attending totaling 647.

Attachments:

- Mailing list for email invitation
- Mailing list for regular mail invitation
- Attendee list
- Invitation mailer with agenda

Damage Prevention Groups – Of the two groups planned, one has been meeting in the Lincoln area and successfully organized with good attendance. Due to extremely high work volume, meetings have been postponed. The other group in the Kearney area is still in the planning stages with strong support for the concept indicated in the area.

The Outstanding Excavator and Locator Awards concept is in its second year and has increased awareness due to word of mouth from the previous year. There were several nominations for the Outstanding Excavator and Locator Awards.

Element 5: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards – Campaigns to support National Safe Digging Month are being executed. To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element.

Radio/TV – To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. A full campaign is planned for the main digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

Excavator Breakfasts – To date, no expenditures have been made toward this element. A full campaign is planned for the upcoming digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

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 decreased by 12% from the previous year. From 728 to 647 due to mild “working” weather followed by a storm forecast for the following day. Vendor participation increased from 35 to 46. Physical invitations reached 7,933 excavators and members and email invitations reached 9,378 addresses.

Damage Preventions Groups – The number of nominations increased in this the second year that these titles were awarded. Six nominations for the Locator Award were received and nine for the Excavator Award. Both the excavator and locator awards were awarded.

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 \$22,616.

Damage Prevention Group – Total reimbursable expenditure is \$400.

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.

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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 meetings each are planned for the Lincoln area and the Kearney area.

Element 5: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards – A campaign throughout the dig season is planned

Radio/TV – A full campaign is planned for the main digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

Excavator Breakfasts – Several meetings are being planned for the upcoming digging months in rural and metro Nebraska.

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.