

2017 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report

CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: 693JK31741010
Project Title: State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants - 2017
Date Submitted: March 30, 2018
Submitted by: Kathleen McNelis

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Under this grant agreement, the recipient will:

Execute a large-scale educational seminar focused on damage prevention and excavation safety. The event will continue the success of the prior 6 years. The seminar is a two day free event consisting of multiple damage prevention dimensions designed to engage attendees and profoundly impact the way that they view and practice safety and damage prevention within their communities and organizations. (Page 2 of the grant application)

Workscope

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

- **Element 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement):** (Not Applicable)
- **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. **(Applicable)**
- **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. **(Applicable)**
- **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. **(Applicable)**
- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities. **(Applicable)**
- **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues. **(Applicable)**

- **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. **(Applicable)**
- **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. **(Applicable)**
- **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. **(Applicable)**

Accomplishments for the grant period (Item 1 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MO PSC), in a collaborative effort with the Missouri Common Ground Alliance, the Missouri One Call System, and additional stakeholders, requested this grant funding for the purposes of conducting a two-day Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit (Summit) in December 2017. This objective was accomplished by conducting the Summit in Springfield, Missouri on December 6 and 7, 2017, as planned. There were approximately 1,670 attendees at the 2017 Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety Summit.

The objective of the Summit was to provide a forum for stakeholder training, participation and discussions related to damage prevention and excavation safety, preventing avoidable accidents and damages to underground utility infrastructure and protection of the public health and welfare of those working and living near buried utility facilities. This was accomplished by the following:

- 1). The Summit provided approximately 41.5 hours of educational instruction designed to familiarize attendees with legally required activities, industry standards & best practices, safety related topics and pertinent theories to proactively avoid damages. Individual attendance at each training session was tracked and multiplied by the hours of each session to calculate total training hours provided to participants. The total training hours provided to participants was approximately 7,000 hours.
- 2). The Summit provided participants with the opportunity to view and operate equipment used in virtually every excavating scenario imaginable, with equipment manufacturers demonstrating the safest and most efficient way to employ their products.
- 3). The Summit discussed and demonstrated best practices for excavators and locators through competitive “rodeos” designed to analyze and showcase the accuracy and efficiency of competitors.

4). The Summit was an inclusive forum for the exchange of ideas, concepts, experiences, and the resolution of problematic issues. In addition to having a formal Stakeholder Roundtable Session, stakeholders had opportunities to initiate discussion among their peers in the excavation industry and to establish networks for communication in future activities.

5). The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages and encouraged summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and to educate colleagues, customers, and the general public on the importance of damage avoidance.

6). The Summit continues to provide the volunteer group consisting of stakeholders from varying industries and backgrounds the opportunity to consistently review conformity to PHMSA's Nine Elements of Damage Prevention. This group also developed, implemented, and reviewed training programs designed to sustain the gains made during instruction through the Summit.

▪ ***Element 1: Effective Communication***

The 2017 Summit provided several means of establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders. In addition to the opportunity for individuals to network with other stakeholders, the project hosted a stakeholder roundtable on enforcement and dispute resolution to identify areas of deficiency and solutions to existing problems. Additionally, a Mock Trial presentation demonstrated what happens when excavators and utilities wind up in civil court due to utility damage.

▪ ***Element 2: Comprehensive Stakeholder Support***

One of the purposes of the Summit is to provide industry stakeholders damage prevention education classes each year. Several sessions were held to support stakeholders. In addition to the Stakeholder Roundtable discussed above, training sessions included Locator Training, Vacuum Excavation, Fall Protection and Safety in Underground Utility Construction, Excavation Competent Person training and Pipeline Safety and Natural Gas Emergencies. A Demonstration was held on Trench Rescue.

▪ ***Element 4: Effective Employee Training***

One of the purposes of the Summit is to provide industry stakeholders damage prevention education classes each year. The 2017 Summit hosted 18 free classes, some providing certifications. These included OSHA 10-hour construction certification training, Excavation Competent Person Certification and Certified Flagger. Additionally, locator training was provided, as well as the locator and excavator rodeos.

▪ ***Element 5: Public Awareness***

The 2017 Summit is a public event and all classes, certifications and events are offered at no cost to registrants. Due to the size of the event, the Summit has attracted media attention which increases public awareness. In addition, the 2017 Summit included a realistic trench rescue demonstration that included fire/rescue, emergency medical personnel and police personnel.

▪ ***Element 6: Dispute Resolution***

A stakeholder Roundtable was held on Enforcement and Dispute Resolution. Discussions included enforcement actions taken by the Missouri Attorney General's Office and the dispute

resolution process as it currently exists. Opinions were solicited for how best to resolve disputes between parties. Additionally, a Mock Trial presentation demonstrated what happens when excavators and utilities wind up in civil court due to utility damage.

▪ ***Element 7: Enforcement***

A Stakeholder Roundtable was held on Enforcement and Dispute Resolution. Discussions included enforcement actions taken by the Missouri Attorney General's Office and the dispute resolution process as it currently exists. Opinions were solicited for how best to resolve disputes between parties. Additionally, a Mock Trial presentation demonstrated what happens when excavators and utilities wind up in civil court due to utility damage.

▪ ***Element 8: Technology***

The product vendors participating in the Summit displayed equipment and had opportunities to discuss current technologies with stakeholders. A class was held on Locator Q&A: Providing information on how locators work, capabilities, and troubleshooting. Additionally, there was a class on vacuum excavation technologies with field demonstration.

▪ ***Element 9: Damage Prevention Programs***

The Summit raised awareness of the current state of utility damages through discussion of the changes to the Damage Prevention statute and other presentations and encouraged summit participants to implement practices to reduce damages and the importance of damage avoidance.

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.")

The Grant was to provide the means to be able to conduct the Summit and that was accomplished.

One measure of effectiveness would be the total attendance. The attendance at the 2017 Summit was 1,666 attendees (the 2014 Summit attendance was approximately 1,300; the 2015 and 2016 Summit attendance each was approximately 1,500). Since the event has been held multiple years in the same venue, the percentage of new and returning participants was also tracked. An estimated 69% of participants attended the event for the first time in 2017.

Another measure of effectiveness would be the total training hours provided. In the 2017 Summit 41.5 hours of training were offered. Actual attendance in each class was taken and recorded electronically. When the individual class hours are multiplied by the actual number of people attending each class, the total was 7,002 hours of training provided to individual participants.

Comments were solicited from stakeholders and those comments were summarized, tabulated, and reviewed to determine how the Summit was received by the participants, determine what the participants liked/didn't like about the Summit, and determine what the participants would like to see in the future. Those comments are being used in the planning process to plan for future Summits.

Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.02 Final Report: “The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.”)

No Issues, problems or challenges to report.

Final Financial Status Report

The expenditures were all Contractual. There were contracts with several entities for the following services: Computer Software Licensing (Engineerica Systems) convention services equipment rental (Page & Brown Convention Services), design/marketing/advertising services (Imagemark Marketing & Advertising), equipment and furniture rental (Greene County Agricultural) transportation services (United Bus Service and Ozark Golf Cars) awards and T-shirts (Missouri Vocational), and video production services (Wise Group LLC).

Included with this submission is an attachment with supporting documentation for expenditures that have been paid by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)

The project for which the grant was solicited is now complete. The stakeholder group has begun planning for the 2018 event for which they will again seek grant funding if available.

Requests of the AOR and/or PHMSA

No actions requested at this time.

Submission of Deliverables

Under the terms of the Grant Agreement, the MO PSC is to submit four deliverables: (1) a Progress Report; (2) a Final Report; (3) a Mid-term Financial Status Report; and, (4) a Final Financial Status Report.

The awarded project has been completed and all expenses have been paid by the MO PSC between the effective date of award and before the due date of the mid-term documents. The MO PSC is therefore submitting: (1) a Final Report; and (2) a Final Financial Status Report (SF-425 – Federal Financial Report) by the due date for the Progress Report (April 1, 2018).