

2017 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Final Report  
CFDA Number: 20.720

**Award Number:** 693JK31741017  
**Project Title:** State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants - 2017  
**Date Submitted:** December 17, 2018  
**Submitted by:** Roger Sampson and John Zizolfo

**Objective of the Agreement:**

Reduce damages to high risk excavations through Risk Assessment Software.

**Work Scope:**

- **Element 3 (Operator Internal Performance Measurement):** (N/A)
- **Element 4 (Effective Employee Training):** (N/A)
- **Element 5 (Public Education):** (N/A)
- **Element 6 (Dispute Resolution):** (N/A)
- **Element 7 (Enforcement):** (N/A)
- **Element 9 (Damage Prevention Program Review):** (N/A)
  
- **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 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.

### **What have we done?**

Developed Software integration with a Risk Assessment Algorithm to be applied at the inception of the Notification Process, to assign a Risk Score to the notification request. The Score is determined by past historical damage data and preset criteria established by the Damage Prevention Center. These scores will assist the facility operator to be aware and adjust to those excavation that pose the highest probability of potential damage. Algorithm has been applied and scores will be assigned to incoming notification requests.

Notified and communicated to the members of New York 811 the new program and established testing for new format of notification requests. Communicated expected launch dates and program commencement through email blasts, flyers, handouts, and direct mailing.

### **What are we Doing Now?**

Final Testing and Communication are being conducted with the Members of New York 811 to ensure the understanding of the program and the changes will not affect the current notification process. Communications are continuing to ensure all members are aware of the program and its benefit to damage prevention efforts.

### **What Do We Plan For the Future?**

As a basic process assigning the risk score to all tickets, the next phase will be to incorporate individual member utility risk criteria, i.e. high pressure gas main, sensitive communication fiber optic, etc. into the Algorithm so the specific utility will benefit by devoting resources to those riskiest probabilities of damage to their facility. With this powerful tool in place and the members using the risk scores to adjust and pay closer attention to, we anticipate a reduction in overall damages to the buried infrastructure.

