

State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants – FY2020
Mid-Term Progress Report
(09/28/20 – 03/31/21)
CFDA Number: 20.720

Award Number: 693JK32040001PSDP

Project Title: State Damage Prevention (SDP) Program Grants - FY2020

Date Submitted: April 14, 2021

Submitted by: Eric Villa

Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Cover one full-time enforcement position (Element 7 Priority 1).

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 7 (Fair and Consistent Enforcement of the Law): 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)**

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.”)

A fulltime person was hired for the enforcement of Arizona's damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violation, which s is the responsibility of AZOPS.

Quantifiable Metrics/Measures of Effectiveness (Item 2 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report: “Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.”)

During 2020 restrictions to conduct investigations were in effect, however, AZOPS Staff performed 115 damage prevention inspections resulting in a total of \$13,750 in fines collected. Violations may include mandatory training using our interactive DVD and online training, if it is determined by the investigator that an excavator's/operator's lack of knowledge of the Arizona Underground Facilities Law contributed to the violation/damages. This resulted in 58 excavators and contractors receiving mandatory training.

Additionally, due to COVID-19 and large group restrictions, the AZOPS in cooperation with the AZ811 Center held 8 seminars, 4 of them were face-to-face and 4 of them were virtual Statewide Damage Prevention Seminars connecting with 520 attendees to provide additional training as well as assisting the AZOPS in getting our message out to dig and operate safely.

At the end of 2020 the training of the fulltime person was completed and since the beginning of 2021 there has been an uptick of damage prevention investigations. From January to the end of March this fulltime person has completed 49 damage prevention investigations resulting in a total of \$10,000 in fines collected. Due to COVID-19 and large group restrictions, the AZOPS in cooperation with the AZ811 Center held 4 virtual Statewide Damage Prevention Seminars connecting with 129 attendees to provide additional training as well as assisting the AZOPS in getting our message out to dig and operate safely.

**Issues, Problems or Challenges (Item 3 under Article IX, Section 9.01 Progress Report:
“The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not.)**

No issues, problems or challenges to report.

Mid-term Financial Status Report

The mid-term financial report has been sent as a separate attachment.

Plans for next period (remainder of grant)

No modification to the plan. This person will continue to be assigned to the enforcement and education of the Underground Facilities Law, monitor excavation activities, conduct follow-up inspections on complaints and investigate incidents of damage or injuries associated with underground facilities, and issue notices of violations as required.

Requests of the AOTR and/or PHMSA

N/A