**2013 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-13-G-PHPS09

**Project Title:** South Carolina 811 Palmetto Utility Protection Service State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** 4/7/2014

**Submitted by:** Charleigh Elebash, Public Awareness Manager

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

Foster support and partnership with stakeholders

Support a Damage Prevention Education Program for industry stakeholders

Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

Foster and promote the use of improving technologies

**Workscope**

**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 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 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.

**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.**”)

During the first half of the grant we have been able to complete one of our major projects – the Safety Summit. We are currently in the middle of several other projects and we are in the planning stages of the remaining projects.

For Element 2, we held a Safety Summit on March 19. The event was initially scheduled for February 12, but was snowed out. Thankfully we didn’t lose any money when rescheduling and we were able to keep a high attendance with the date change. We had over 200 people in attendance. We have a variety of speakers: Cliff Meidl, OCOA spokesperson speaking about safety and the importance of calling before you dig, SC811 giving center updates and a presentation on the newly implemented Positive Response system, David Landry talking about RP1162 and gas safety, David Fulmer talking about safety from the emergency responder side, a couple of outdoor demonstrations (Ground Penetrating Radar and Hydro-excavation) and a jeopardy game to review the entire day. We received excellent feedback about the event and we plan to make this an annual or semi-annual event around the state. We were able to reach all stakeholders at this event.

For Element 4, we are currently in the midst of the Damage Prevention Training Class Expo. At these small events we are reaching stakeholders around the state with our Damage Prevention Training class and we have included a Positive Response demo as well. So far three classes have taken place and there are six more that have been booked for the next couple of months. In the 3 classes, we have had 59 people sign up to be part of the member portal which allows these people to enter web locates and will give them access to Positive Response once it is fully implemented.

Also for Element 4, we are in the middle of accepting applications for our Locator Recognition Program. Those will be awarded in May. We have received positive feedback from locators around the state that they are happy to receive some recognition.

For Element 5, we are in the middle of the Gladys Kravitz Postcard Marketing Plan. This plan began April 1, so we have not received any feedback on the program yet. We are currently in the planning stages of the 811 Runs. We have spent the general education funds on banners for our members to display during the month of April. SC811 has co-funded this project and we have given banners to every SC Company who has requested them. Over 90 banners given away to date and many companies have provided photos of their banners hanging, which can be seen on our facebook page [http://tinyurl.com/sc811bannersfb].We continue to post photos as we receive them.

For Element 8, the GIS Database server has not yet been purchased.

**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.”)**

For the Safety Summit, we were able to reach over 200 people. We gave our surveys at the end of the event and all categories received a 4.5 (of 5) rating or higher. Categories included presentations, speakers, etc. We were pleased that we received such great feedback from the event and look forward to hosting it again.

We are keeping track of the number of attendees at the Damage Prevention Training Classes. The number of people who are signing up for the portal shows that the class is effective and after these classes are over, I will report the total number of attendees and the number who have signed up for the portal.

For our postcard program, we have placed a QR code on each postcard that is mailed. We have google analytics set up on the landing page so we can track the success of the campaign. We will also have a list of all addresses where the cards are mailed so we can cross reference how many locate requests are called in at those addresses after the campaign is over.

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

There are no issues, challenges or problems to report.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

SF-425 and a breakdown of cost per object category has been submitted to the AA and GOTR.

**Plans for Next Period (Remainder of Grant)**

For the remaining period of the grant, we will continue to put on the Damage Prevention Training Class Expos. We will also continue the postcard marketing plan and track the success of that plan. We have already booked the aerial advertising for the summer months along the most populated South Carolina beaches. We are in the midst of putting the 811 runs together and purchasing additional advertising. And we will purchase the GIS server this summer.

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

No actions requested at this time.