**2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**

**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:**  DTPH5614GPPS13

**Project Title:** Nebraska State Fire Marshal State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** April 30, 2015

**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

**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

**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 preceded by 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 since November 1, 2014, will be completed by June 1, 2015. Flag orders will be taken and mailed up until August 1, 2015 or until supplies run out.

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

The momentum continues for another year as the event held on February 25, 2015 grew in all areas from attendance to course offerings and positive feedback from attendees. Invitations reached all stakeholders and members that had placed a locate request in the previous six months. 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, program printing and items such as Best Practices manuals and color code cards in attendee bags. One hundred percent 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 a locate and excavator rodeo. In one class all stakeholders demonstrated their role in a line hit simulation. Billboards, meals and free online registration also supplemented the event and contributed to its success in reaching a wide variety of stakeholders.

Attachments:

* Attendee list (att 1)
* Billboard graphics (att 2)
* Email list for Safety Summit Invitation (att 3)
* Sign-in for attendees not previously registered (att 4)
* Safety Summit mailer – trifold brochure with agenda (att 5)
* Physical mailing list for Safety Summit invitation brochure (att 6)

Element 5 – Public Education

Billboards: Campaigns to support the Excavation Safety Summit and National Safe Digging Month were successfully executed. Feedback was received from attendees stating that the billboards were a reminder to register for the event. The jump in attendance numbers over previous years could perhaps be attributed to this public education campaign.

Attachments:

* Billboard graphics (att 3)

**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 increased by 48% over the previous year. From 380 to 560. Vendor participation increased by 20%. From 26 to 32. Physical invitations reached 6,691 excavators and members and email invitations reached 6,834 addresses.

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: Billboards were posted in ten different locations throughout Nebraska throughout the month prior to the Safety Summit event and in 11 locations throughout the month of April.

**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 $35,120.63

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: total reimbursable expenditure is $9,000.00

See attached spreadsheet for breakdown. (att 7)

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

Element 1 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Statewide education and distribution of White Marking Flags preceded by 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 since November 1, 2014, will be completed by June 1, 2015. Flag orders will be taken and mailed up until August 1, 2015 or until supplies run out.

Element 2 – COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Safety Summit: this project is complete. There are no plans for the remainder of the period

Element 5 – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Billboards: this project is complete. There are no plans for the remainder of the period

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

No actions requested at this time.