Virginia Pilot Project for One-Call Location Technology

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Damage Prevention Requires Effective Communication

- Effective damage prevention programs are necessary
- Damage prevention is a shared responsibility
- Requisite is the exchange of accurate and timely information about planned excavations and affected facilities

- Excavator must take care not to damage the facilities during excavation.
VA Pilot for One-Call Location Technology

• Purpose is to identify and test available technology to enhance the communication process
• Utilizing GPS and enhanced geo-coding of maps
• Motivated by pipeline operator request to reduce ‘over-notification’ – i.e., the number of tickets that don’t actually involve the operator’s facilities
• Fewer tickets = more time available to increase locate accuracy, focus on affected facilities and decrease potential damages
Excavator – determines dig site GPS coordinates and communicates to one-call center via Internet ticket request

One-call center – processes ticket request information, identifies affected facility operators and issues locate tickets

Operator/locator – receives locate ticket, performs locate using GPS coordinates and marks facility locations

Operator/locator - notifies one-call center using mobile computer technology. Provides positive response codes and copy of field manifest

One-call center – receives and records locate information and transmits positive response to excavator via PC or phone

Excavator – receives positive response via PC or phone and begins digging in designated area

VA Pilot for One-Call Location Technology
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Expected Pilot Project Performance Results Trends

- Tickets issued per request
- Inaccurate locate requests
- Facility damages

More

Less

Current

End of Pilot
VA Pilot for One-Call Location Technology

Expected Pilot Project Performance Results Trends

Facility locate accuracy

More

Less

Current

End of Pilot
Pilot Project Participants

- PHMSA
- PRCI
- CGA
- VA SCC
- VUPS
- Operators
- Locators
- Excavators
Pilot Project Tasks and Timeline

- Select pilot areas
- Coordinate with affected participants
- Identify equipment needs and procure equipment
- Run pilot, gather and analyze data
- Draft project report
- Project duration 12 – 18 months
Pilot Project Deliverables

- Cost/benefit analyses of pilot approach
- Pilot project performance review
- Best practice recommendations for technologies and processes
- Determination if additional pilot of ‘e.dig’ site would be beneficial