

**2009 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**  
**Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-09-SN-0001**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH56-09-G-PHPS06

**Project Title:** MN Office of Pipeline Safety State Damage Prevention

**Date Submitted:** August 13, 2009

**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Skalnek

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

*Under this grant award, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety will hire one full time person to perform damage prevention program duties. Duties of this employee will include:*

- *Enforcement action follow-up and collections*
- *In-office investigations and research*
- *Statistical analysis and complaint and incident trending*
- *Court proceedings and conciliations*
- *Compliance monitoring of one-call center operations, frequent offenders, and types of offenses*
- *Rules and law review*
- *Outreach*
  - *Safety presentations to excavators*
  - *Safety & training presentations for operators & locators*
  - *Annual conference with Damage Prevention track*
  - *Safety messages for the general population*
- *Involvement in the regional Common Ground Alliance*
- *Active participation in area Utility Coordinating Committees*
- *Participation in the one-call center Operations and Communication Committees*
- *Participation in locator roundtable and summit meetings*

### **Workscope**

*Under the terms of this agreement, the Grantee will address the following elements listed in 49 USC §60134 through the actions it has specified in its Application.*

- *Element (2): 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): 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): A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.*
- *Element (6): A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.*

- *Element (7): 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.*
- *Element (9): A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews.*

**Accomplishments for this period (Item 1 under Section 9.01 Progress Report: “A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.”)**

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Accomplishments (approximate year-to-date numbers as of report date)</i>
<i>Enforcement action follow-up and collections</i>	<i>4 enforcement actions as of 6/9</i>
<i>In-office investigations and research</i>	<i>44 office/field investigations as of 6/9</i>
<i>Statistical analysis and complaint and incident trending</i>	<i>Data gathering initiated</i>
<i>Court proceedings and conciliations</i>	<i>Court cases and conciliations ongoing</i>
<i>Compliance monitoring of one-call center operations, frequent offenders, and types of offenses</i>	<i>Monitoring ongoing</i>
<i>Rules and law review</i>	<i>2 Rule review meetings were conducted</i>
<i>Outreach</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Safety presentations to excavators</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Safety &amp; training presentations for operators &amp; locators</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Annual conference with Damage Prevention track</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Safety messages for the general population</i></li> </ul>	<i>56 Damage Prevention Presentations</i>  <i>Damage Prevention Track at MNOPS Spring Educational Conference (excellent participation!)</i>  <i>Attended Farm Fest (did not charge time to this grant for this activity)</i>
<i>Involvement in the regional Common Ground Alliance</i>	<i>Participated in 2 CGA meetings</i>
<i>Active participation in area Utility Coordinating Committees</i>	<i>Participated in 4 Utility Coordinating Committee meetings</i>
<i>Participation in the one-call center Operations and Communication Committees</i>	<i>Participated in numerous Gopher State One Call Operations and Communication Committee meetings</i>
<i>Participation in locator roundtable and summit meetings</i>	<i>Locator roundtables conducted at MNOPS Spring Conference</i>

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

*As of the report date, MNOPS has conducted approximately 56 Damage Prevention Presentations, 2 Rule Review Meetings, 2 CGA meetings and 4 Utility Coordinating Committee Meetings in 2009.*

*Because of this grant, in 2009 year to date, MNOPS has been able to dedicate almost as many hours to damage prevention efforts as was spent in all of 2008 (including those covered by the One-Call grant for both years). This has enabled MNOPS to respond to far more complaints of buried facility damages. Compared to the same time last year (2008), the number of hours spent on damage prevention so far is ~30% higher in 2009.*

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

*None.*

#### **Mid-term Financial Status Report**

*The mid-term financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA and AOTR.*

*All costs submitted were for salary, fringe and indirect. The new form used (per Sam Hall/AOTR) was SF-269A which did not include the breakdown.*

#### **Plans for next period (remainder of grant)**

*Continue with the objectives listed above.*

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

*No actions requested at this time.*