

**2014 State Damage Prevention Program Grants Progress Report**  
**CFDA Number: 20.720**

**Award Number:** DTPH5614GPPS17

**Project Title:** Public Utilities Commission of Nevada State Damage Prevention Grant

**Date Submitted:** April 30, 2015

**Submitted by:** Dawn Rivard, Consumer Outreach Director

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

*[Cut and paste from Article II, Section 2.03 of your agreement.]*

- Support Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education

**Workscope**

- **Element 5 (Public Education):** A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.

**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.”)**

The PUCN proposed to use funds from this grant to enhance homeowner knowledge of 811 through four initiatives/activities. Our progress with these initiatives is as follows.

1. **Interactive Portable Dig Boxes:** The PUCN has been working with Apple Rock, a Las Vegas custom display vendor, to develop two interactive dig boxes that use sight, sound and touch to show Nevadans why it’s dangerous to dig without calling 811 before beginning any digging project. One box will be used in home shows and community events in northern Nevada (Reno area), and the other will be used in southern Nevada (Las Vegas area). Apple Rock delivered the boxes to the PUCN on April 24, 2015. The Southern Nevada box will debut a day after this report is due on May 1 at the Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival.
2. **Home Shows & Community Events:** As of April 30, the PUCN has utilized SDP grant funds to pay for booth space at five home shows and community events across the state. PUCN Staff has spoken to hundreds of Nevadans about 811 and other topics through attendance at these events. Funds were also utilized to sponsor staff travel to attend home shows in Reno and Elko, Nevada. Below is a list of events attended with SDP grant money.
  - a. Winter Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo, Jan. 23 – 25, Las Vegas, Nevada
  - b. Home Expo Las Vegas, Feb. 27 – Mar. 1, Las Vegas, Nevada
  - c. Batterman Elementary School Career Fair (this event was free), Mar. 11, Las Vegas, Nevada
  - d. Reno Home & Garden Show, Mar. 20 – 22, Reno, Nevada

- e. Spring Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo, Mar. 27 – 29, Las Vegas, Nevada
  - f. GREENFest, Apr. 25, Las Vegas, Nevada
3. **Homeowner’s Guide to Safe Digging:** To explain the basics of safe digging and how the 811 one-call system works, the PUCN proposed to use SDP grant funds to develop and print, in English and Spanish, a brochure titled, “Homeowner’s Guide to Safe Digging in Nevada.” The PUCN used grant funds to print 5,000 English copies, to translate the brochure into Spanish, and print 5,000 Spanish copies. PUCN Staff has distributed this guide to citizens at home shows and community events. During the summer months, the PUCN’s plan is to approach home improvement and gardening stores to request the placement of these guides within Nevada stores.
4. **Educational Items:** To reinforce the safe digging message at home shows and community events, the PUCN has utilized SDP grant funds to purchase: 1,000 yellow and 1,000 pink plastic hard hats for children; 2,000 plastic bags imprinted with the 811 and PUCN logos; and 811 and PUCN-logo stickers to affix to the hats for messaging purposes. To date, PUCN staff have distributed nearly one-third of the hats. They are very popular at events. Kids see other kids wearing the hats at events and seek out our booth to get their own hats!

**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.”)**

The PUCN proposed to use SDP grant monies for the sole purpose of addressing Element 5, public education. As of April 30, PUCN staff has been able to reach approximately 750 Nevadans through face-to-face contact at home shows and community events. On average, staff speaks directly to 150 people per event (150 x 5 events = 750). At these events, the PUCN has also distributed 1,402 educational items (hard hats and 811 plastic bags) and Homeowner’s Guides to Safe Digging brochures.

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

The PUCN encountered a delay in the production of the two interactive dig boxes that are the cornerstone of this agency’s SDP grant program. The vendor hired to produce the dig boxes experienced production problems. As a result, PUCN staff has attended home show and other community events through April 30 without the visual aid of the interactive dig boxes. While staff has been able to engage citizens at these events with other means, such as the hard hats purchased with SDP grant funds, the dig boxes would have helped engage the public and would have better illustrated the importance of calling 811 before beginning a digging project.

**Mid-term Financial Status Report**

**AGREEMENT #DTPH5614GPPS01  
ATTACHMENT 2A**

*From Article IX, Section 9.03 of your agreement: “During the performance of the grant, the Recipient must submit a mid-term Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425 (SF-425), to report the status of funds. In addition to the SF-425, the Recipient should provide the breakdown of costs for each object class category (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other, and Indirect Charges). The Mid-term Financial Status Report should cover all activities through March 31, 2015 and this report must be submitted to the AOR and the AA via e-mail, no later than April 30, 2015.”]*

The PUCN’s mid-term financial report (Form SF-425) will be sent as a separate attachment to the AA and AOTR, including a spreadsheet that breakdowns expenditures for each object class category (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other and Indirect Charges).

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

Continue with the objectives listed above.

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

No requests at this time.