

The Road You Traveling

Why every State DOT will be required to locate their underground facilities



ilities Conference

Portland, Oregon

April 29 to May 3, 2012

Where Tradition and Transformation Converge

AASHTO

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2012 AASHTO Subcommittee on Right of Way and Utilities Conference

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The Progression of Events

- Prior to 1998
- Series of state initiatives to create “call before you dig laws”
- Very few government agencies were included
- Patchwork quilt of laws across America

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Common Ground Study

- 1998-1999 Federal DOT Initiative
- First national look at state one call laws
- 140+ stakeholder participants, including Federal Government
- Resulted in a series of recommendations, known as the best practices



Common Ground Alliance

- Formed in 2000
- Charged with continuing the work of the Common Ground Study
- Funded in part by PHMSA
- Became forum between Federal Government and the Stakeholders

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A Series of Compelling Events

- 9/11 brought attention to the role of the infrastructure to America's society
- Several high profile national accidents involving the infrastructure came to Washington's attention
- DIRT report focused on causes of underground facility damage

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PIPES ACT of 2006

- 811 Number Assigned to One Call
- PHMSA began to “judge” the adequacy of state one call initiatives
- “9” elements became focus
- No exemptions to one call became a central theme
- State DOT’s came into focus



API and AOPL Initiative

- Pipeline Industry under scrutiny for high profile accidents, including those caused by third party damage
- Open letter to all states and the Secretary of Transportation for significant reforms to one call laws
- Demands no exemptions

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State DOT's Have Underground Facilities

- Significant underground plant
- Both energized and passive plant (drainage)
- Meets the statutory definition of an underground facility in most states

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State DOT's Have Underground Facilities

- Not deemed protected by permit or other administrative processes
- No “political excuse”
- Each industry deemed interdependent
- Washington agrees with no exemption rule
- Now state funding of regulators being tied to elimination of all exemptions



Where do Go From Here?

- Losing Fight?
- Develop systems to address your responsibilities as both an excavator and as an underground facility operator
- Significant investment in time and training
- Will require “cultural shift”

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Where do Go From Here?

- Become an excavator
- Make one call part of work management systems
- Use integrated approach to submitting tickets
- Use electronic ticket entry
- Use a ticket management system



Where do Go From Here?

- Become a facility operator
- Work with your one call center to develop efficient on-line system to transmit and manage your maps
- Identify what underground facilities you have under your state law

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Where do Go From Here?

- Create a culture of change
- DOT's will be considered “utilities” and “excavators” in the evolving nature of the law
- Demonstrate the advantages to protection of your underground facilities
- Educate your State as to the Changing Role of DOT's

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