

Common Ground Alliance and Damage Prevention Institute

GOWV Damage Prevention Seminar

April 5, 2023

Roanoke, West Virginia

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Today's Discussion Topics

Setting the Stage – Status of the Damage Prevention Industry

CGA Programs and Initiatives

“50 in 5” Industry Challenge

Damage Prevention Institute

Q&A



Mission

The Common Ground Alliance is dedicated to preventing damage to underground utility infrastructure and protecting those who live and work near these important assets through the shared responsibility of our stakeholders.











Best Practices

- Version 18.0 published June 2021
- More than 160 practices developed through consensus
- Available online at bestpractices.commongroundalliance.com

Filter by Industry Icons ⓘ

 One Call Center  Facility Owner  Excavator  Locator  Project Owner  Designer

CGA Introducing
Best Practices 18.0



Published in summer of 2021, Best Practices 18.0 includes all new practices and is now available to download and in hard copy.



To download or order booklets visit:

BestPractices.CommonGroundAlliance.com

CGA Best Practices 18.0
New Best Practices

BP 2-19:
Underground Electronic Utility Markers

BP 6-19:
As-Built Mapping of Underground Electronic Utility Markers

Appendix B Addition:
Guidelines for Underground Electronic Utility Marker Technology

To review the complete new practices, visit:
BestPractices.CommonGroundAlliance.com



Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report for 2021



- DIRT accepts data on excavation damages and near-misses from all affected parties
- Includes analysis of data submitted into DIRT for a given year
- 18th annual report
- Written report supplemented by online interactive dashboard

DIRT Report Establishes Sense of Urgency

- Points to overall plateau or slight increase in damages since 2019.
- Increased construction spending has consistently proven to correlate with an increase in damages. Infrastructure funding will stress system.
- Locate requests to 811 centers (one call centers) increased by 8% over the previous year, with 811 centers seeing a significant shift in locate request methodology toward electronic rather than voice.

Damage and Root Cause Trends

The vast majority of damages are caused by six root causes:

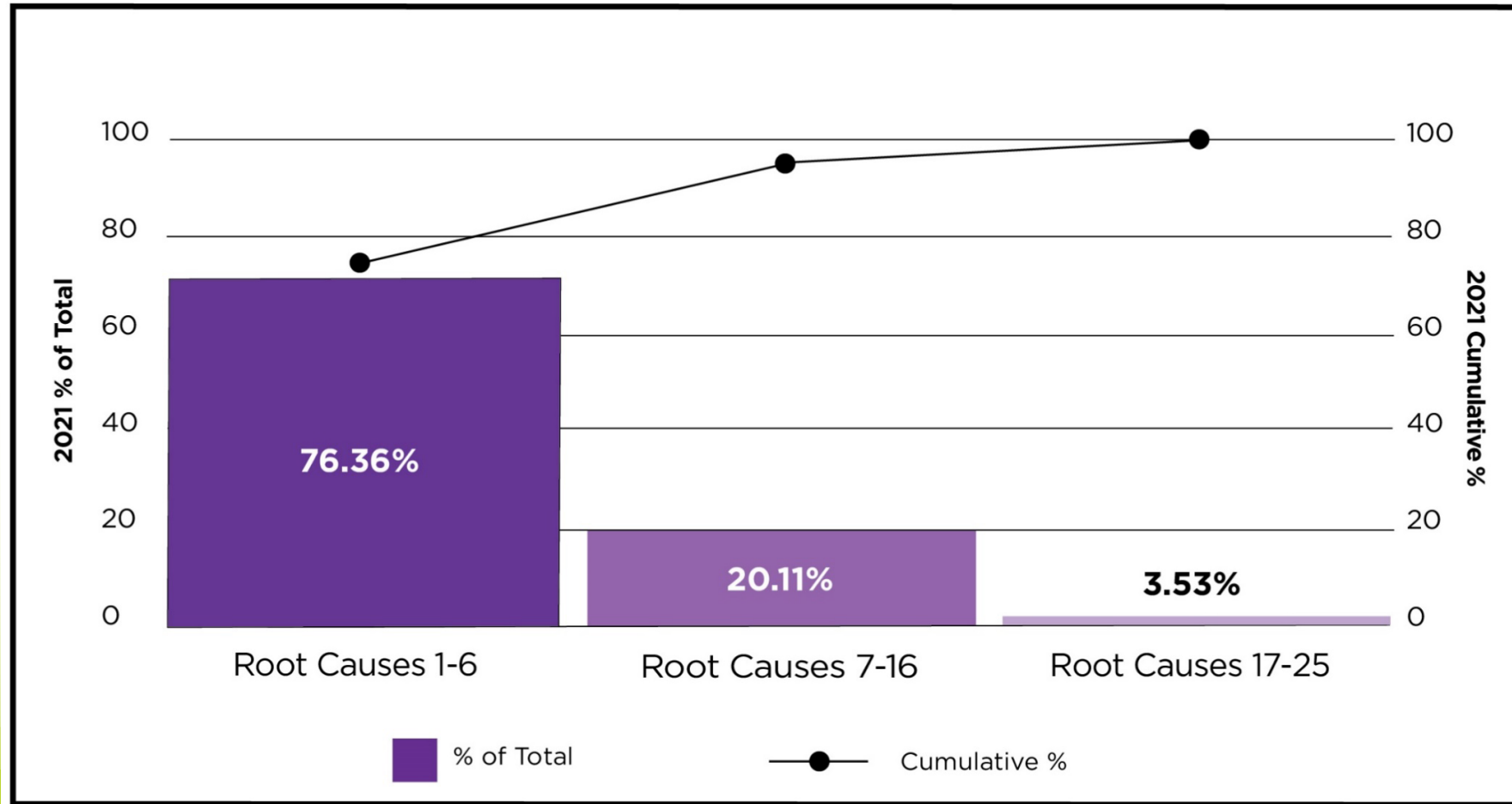
Root Cause			Reports	2021 % of Total
1	No notification made to 811 Center		34,617	25.72%
2	Facility not marked due to locator error		19,341	14.37%
3	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks		18,782	13.95%
4	Improper excavation practice not listed elsewhere		12,181	9.05%
5	Marked inaccurately due to locator error		10,763	8.00%
6	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by potholing		7,090	5.27%
76.36%				

Legend

	Excavation Practices
	Invalid Use of Request by Excavator
	Locating Practices
	Miscellaneous
	No Locate Request

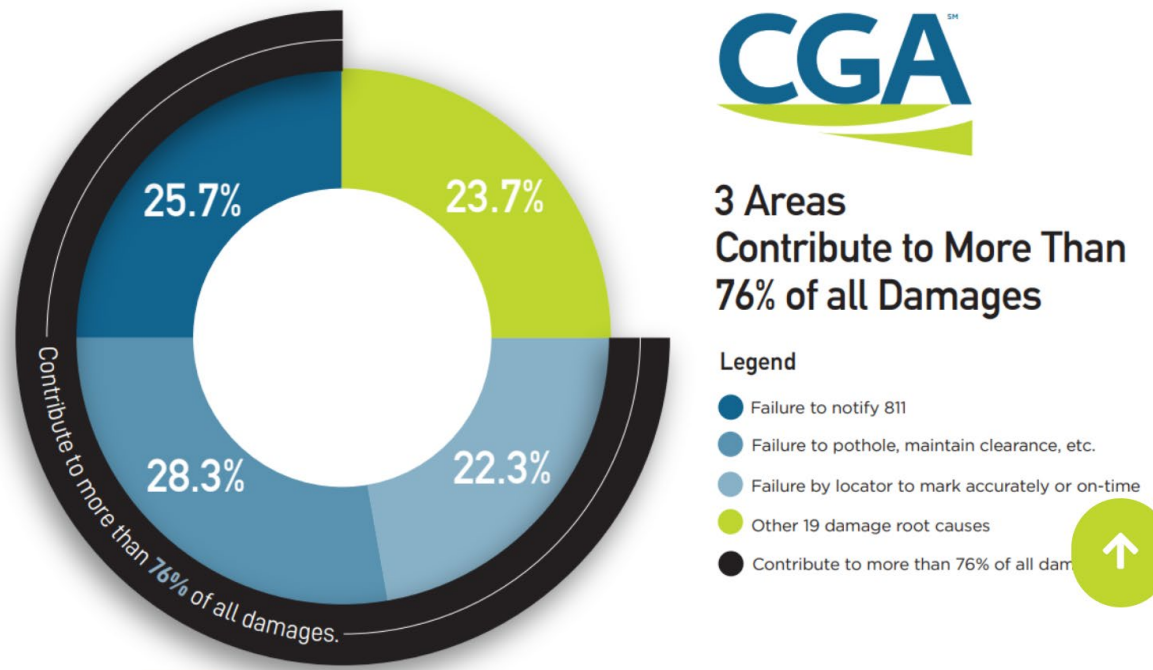
- Digging without notification to 811
- Facilities not being marked or being marked inaccurately due to locator error and/or incorrect facility records/maps.
- Excavators failing to pothole and failing to maintain sufficient clearance

We Must Consider How Our Damage Prevention Efforts Address the Leading Individual Root Causes



Common Ground Alliance Announces “50 in 5” Industry Challenge to Cut Damages to Buried Utilities in Half by 2028

WASHINGTON (Feb. 28, 2023) – [Common Ground Alliance \(CGA\)](#), the national nonprofit trade association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, people who dig near them and their communities, today issued its “50 in 5” industry challenge to stakeholders with a goal of reducing damages to critical underground utilities by 50% in five years.



IF YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE, YOU'LL ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN

How does the current process impact the likelihood of meaningful advancements in damage prevention?

- Time to re-assess?
- Do differently?
- Rethink?

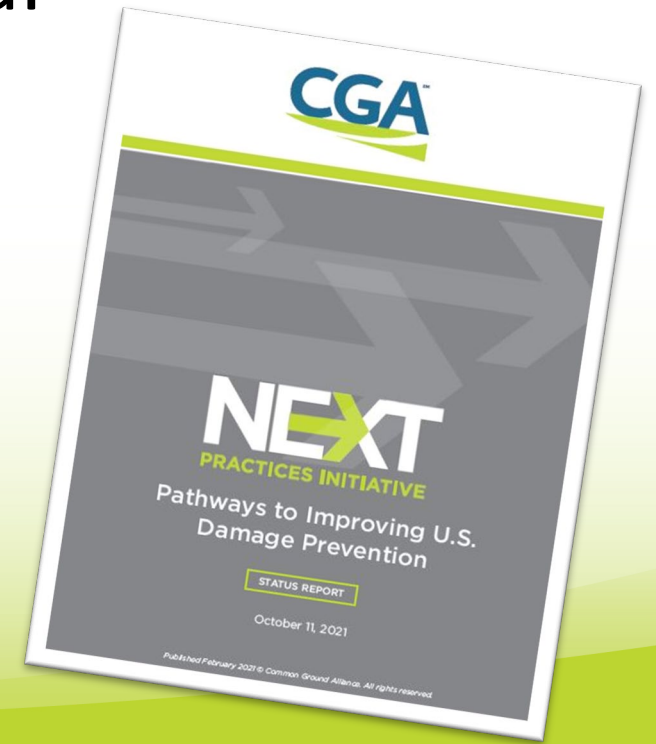
Next Practices: Report to the Industry

- Goal: Clearly identify and focus the industry on the **advancement of effective solutions to address the most critical damage prevention challenges.**
- Three critical issues
- Identified consistent inefficiencies
- ***Opportunities for systemic improvement***



Pathways to Improving US Damage Prevention: Status Report

- Analysis of barriers and incentives for each systemic improvement identified in the initial *Report to the Industry*.
- Documents practices or pilot programs that are already in place across the country and are focused on damage reduction goals.
- Identifies pathways for exploring and documenting additional improvements.



Next Practices - Top 3 Critical Issues

Effective and consistent use of
811

Excavator errors in the field

Facilities not marked accurately
and on time

SYSTEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Increase implementation of effective electronic white lining.
- ☐ Pursue an accurate, accessible GIS-based mapping system/database.
- ☐ Utilize technology/software to account for variability in demand.
- ☐ Contractually incentivize adherence to Best Practices and address incidents via effective enforcement mechanisms.

DIRT - More than 76% of Damages

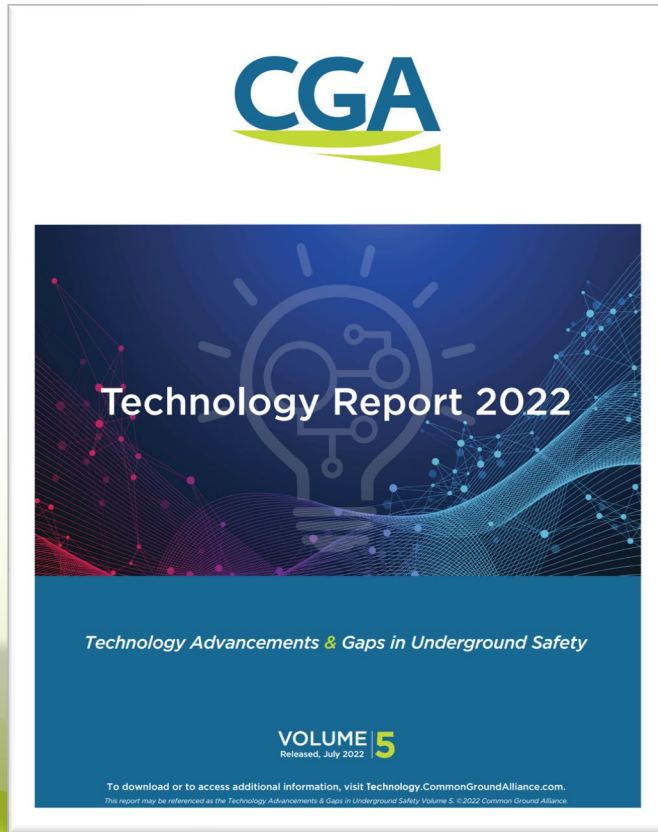
Digging without notification to
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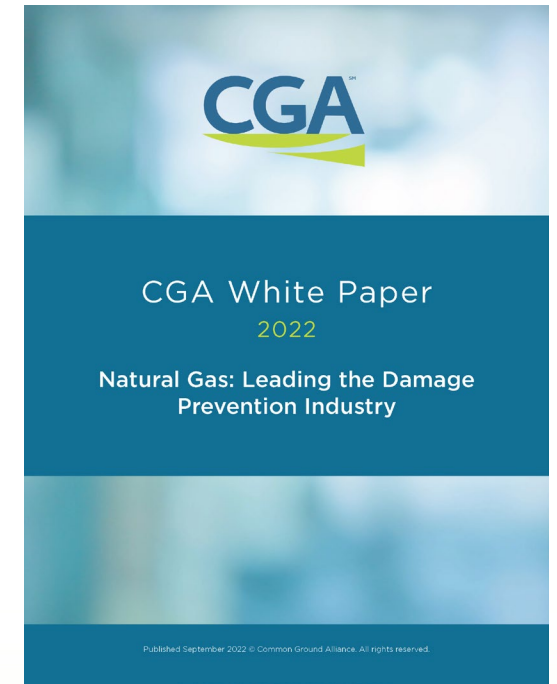
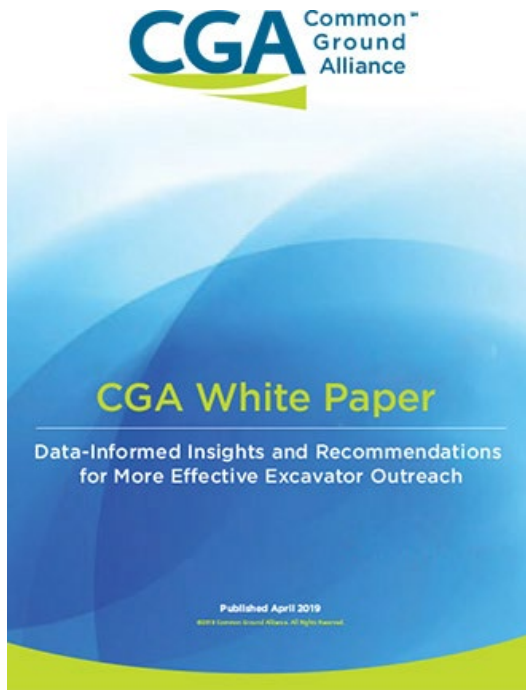
Excavators failing to pothole
and failing to maintain
sufficient clearance

Facilities not being marked or
being marked inaccurately due
to locator error and/or
incorrect facility records/maps.

Technology: Advancements & Gaps in Underground Safety

- Technology Hub provides enhanced access to information describing damage prevention technologies
- Searchable microsite of CGA Technology Reports, case studies and other information
- Identifies stakeholder group(s) the technologies are intended for, using the same icons used in CGA's Best Practices Guide





White Paper Series



MISSION

To address systemic inefficiencies in the damage prevention process through the development of a system of comprehensive participant accreditation and metrics, creating the foundation for a consolidated benchmarking and true peer review process.



Core Principles of the DPI

- **ALL participants demonstrate accountability for their **damage prevention responsibilities** through accreditation, data submission, and participating in peer reviews.**
- The DPI is **participant-driven** and **operates transparently**.
- Participation is **voluntary**.
- The DPI is **not punitive**. Accreditation does not depend upon performance. Performance speaks for itself.



Some Keys to Success

- As a member of the CGA, you have a strong voice in determining the direction and outcomes of the DPI.
- The overwhelming majority of DPI members will initially be excavators.
 - More data from excavators will tell a more complete and accurate story.
- If something is broken, we fix it together.

What is Happening with DPI Now?



- DPI participation is growing quickly!
- We are answering your questions and talking with our new members.
 - Thank you for contacting us.
- We are discussing metrics.
- We are discussing the peer review process.
- We are updating our systems to support data reporting.



Three Steps to Enroll* in the DPI

1. Become a CGA Member

- Two CGA membership tiers (no additional cost for DPI participation):
 - \$1,000 – Municipalities or organizations with less than 10 employees
 - \$2,500 – Corporate membership for organizations with 10 or more employees

2. Complete the DPI Enrollment Form (Accreditation)

3. Submit monthly data to the Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT)

* See <http://dpi.commongroundalliance.com/Participate>



Basic Accreditation Requirements



- Leadership commitment to the DPI
- Submit damage and metrics data
- Whistleblower and stop-work authority for employees
- Investigation and corrective action policy/procedures
- Adherence to CGA Best Practices
- Compliance with dig laws and regulations
- Training



Accreditation

- We are asking for detailed organization profile information and about your adoption of CGA Best Practices.
 - Profile information will be used to identify similar companies doing similar work.
 - Documenting adoption of Best Practices supports understanding of the current status of the industry and areas of future focus.
- The current list of accredited organizations is available on the DPI website.



Metrics

- **A starting place...**

- We are actively discussing the DPI metrics that will best serve the damage prevention industry.

Facility Owners/Operators	Locators	Excavators
Mapping Quality	On-time Tickets / Total Tickets	Damages / 10,000 Work Hours
Time To Update Maps	Damages / 1,000 Locates	Damages / 1,000 Transmissions

Metrics Defined (cont.)



	Metric	Description
Facility O/Os	Mapping Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Damages associated w/ incorrect records / total locates2. Record discrepancies reported (w/ or w/out damage) / total number of locates3. Discrepancies resolved / discrepancies reported
	Time-to- Update Maps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Implement a process (including timelines) for updating records with as-builts for new installations, including replacement work2. Implement a process (including timelines) for updating records with known or reported discrepancies3. Track the above processes utilizing a performance indicator documenting the actual update cycle times for each process; update goals annually



The Future of DPI Metrics

- The DPI Metrics Committee is actively pursuing the development of metrics that are:
 - Clearly defined.
 - Complete and complementary.
 - One or two metrics per stakeholder group will not paint a complete picture.
 - Meaningful to the industry and indicative of performance of damage prevention responsibilities.
 - Trusted and reliable.



Peer Reviews

- CGA has met with AGA, API, Nulca, and others to understand their peer review processes
- The peer review process may be structured differently for different stakeholder groups
- DPI will launch a pilot of the peer review process in 2023
- DPI will seek CGA member input and communicate with all members about progress



DPI Data Products

- Organizations that share data with each other will have access to all damage data and metrics data for each other.
 - Data sharing is self-managed.
 - DPI staff will support your data sharing needs.
- The DPI will produce information that compares the performance of participants to their peers without ranking or grading organizations.



More Information

- Visit our website at <http://dpi.commongroundalliance.com>.
 - Includes short tutorial videos and other guidance.
- DPI “blog” now available from our website.
- Contact us:
 - Email: dpi@commongroundalliance.com
 - Phone: (571) 500-2085
- Add *@connectedcommunity.org and *@commongroundalliance.com to your safe senders list to be sure you get our emails.

Thank You



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