
California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

December 9-10, 2024

Agenda Item No. 16 Information Item – Staff Report

Coordinated Statewide Education and Outreach Workshop Update

PRESENTER

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SUMMARY

At the Board's 2024 Education and Outreach meeting, staff presented its research findings on the existing education and outreach programs within the excavation industry and recommended the Board's Education and Outreach Committee conduct a series of workshops with stakeholders to collaboratively identify high priority safety concerns to inform the development and implementation of training.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2020 Strategic Plan Objective: Improve Compliance by Reaching Parties in Effective Ways
Strategic Activity: Establish a Framework for Coordinated State Education and Outreach

BACKGROUND

Government Code § 4216.12(b)(1) requires the Board to coordinate education and outreach activities that encourage safe excavation practices. While there are laws and regulations for dig safe practices, there is a lack of unified understanding of standards with education and outreach. This has led to a siloed approach in the development, delivery, and measurement of safety training and engagement. Some existing partnerships create more consistent damage prevention education programs and demonstrating that a coordinated effort throughout the industry could improve information uniformity.

This partnership concept was introduced during the Board's September 2023 Education and Outreach meeting's workshop discussion¹ where the Board determined there was a need to develop a coordinated education program accessible to a broad audience for a uniform understanding. As part of the 2024 Workplan, staff conducted interviews with industry

¹ [September 11, 2023, Agenda Item No. 5, Education and Outreach Workshop Discussion](#)

stakeholders to gain insight into their education and outreach programs and to analyze evaluation techniques and effectiveness.

At the Board's 2024 Education and Outreach meeting, Staff presented the research findings and made a recommendation to that staff conduct a series of workshops to collaboratively identify high priority safety concerns to inform the development and implementation of training and to establish metrics through a learning model.

DISCUSSION

Staff has begun planning the logistics and developing an outreach plan for the Education and Outreach stakeholder workshops. Staff will prepare promotional material for each workshop, partnering with industry associations, and engaging with industry stakeholders to inform them and encourage participation.

Staff plans to present final workshop findings and recommendations at the Board's 2025 Education and Outreach meeting.

Goals

Staff identified three goals for the workshops. The first is to engage with stakeholders understand training issues from all perspectives in the call-before-you-dig process. The second goal is for stakeholders to collaboratively develop education and outreach training based on the collected information and create an action plan to implement the training. The final goal is to have stakeholders establish the appropriate metrics to evaluate the success of the training.

The first workshop will be focused on collaboratively identifying significant safety concerns. Each workshop will build upon the information gathered from prior workshops so the second workshop's focus is dependent upon the progress and results of the first workshop.

Workshop Topics

To drive participation during the first workshop and provide structure, the agenda will include topics that were developed using industry data and statistics, such as the DIRT Report. Workshop discussions may include addressing the following questions:

- a. The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) 2023 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT)² lists the six most common causes of underground infrastructure damage at the national level. Are these the top damages reflected in excavation projects within California or are there other types of causes that need to be included?
- b. What types of excavation safety training is being delivered or received and what has been effective or ineffective? What are possible reasons why the training is effective or

² [Common Ground Alliance 2023 Damage Information Reporting Tool](#)

ineffective?

- c. Are there specific challenges or obstacles you face in obtaining access to excavation safety training? What are the possible reasons for these challenges or obstacles?
- d. What additional resources or tools would enhance the effectiveness of implement best practices in excavation safety training? How can those best practices be consistently coordinated between stakeholders?
- e. What recent incidents or near-misses have highlighted areas for improvement in excavation safety training, and what can we learn from them?

Dates

The Board's Education and Outreach Committee plan to start this series of education and outreach workgroups in early 2025. Staff recommends that these workshops be held in-person with the option of attending online, and that the venue locations be split between both Northern California and Southern California to encourage in-person participation statewide.