

Articles of this inaugural edition of the NTDPCC Info-Link include.

Who Are We?
What Are We All About?
Where Are We Going?

Want to Know More About OCSI?
www.pubworks.org/apwa/ocsi_dc.html

Education...
Legislation...
Partnerships...
Success Stories & Updates..

NTDPC INFO-LINK

National Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council
Information Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

"Partners in Damage Prevention"

January 1997

Mission Statement

To Promote the protection of the telecommunications networks to ensure uninterrupted, reliable communications for the benefit of customers and the public. To promote subsurface facility awareness and the use of One Call notification systems. To promote cooperation among members and to establish and maintain a framework within which to address and resolve common problems. To identify areas of common concern and promote joint actions. To promote safety in and around shared plant facilities. To promote constructive and efficient joint restoration and relocation activities among members.

JOINT GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY DAMAGE PREVENTION TEAM

The NTDPCC has been invited to participate in a joint government industry quality action team to represent the telecommunications industry. Industry and government have recognized for some time that third party activity is the leading cause of damage to underground facilities. Most often such damage results from excavation related to repair and maintenance of nearby underground facilities. In most states, the use of One Call centers, which alert underground facility operators to planned excavation has sharply reduced excavation damage. However, some excavators still fail to use One Call. In some cases, where One Call has been used, dig-ins still occur. The challenge of damage prevention has led to the formation of a joint government industry Quality Action Team (QAT). The purpose of the team is to assess the status of current damage prevention efforts and their effectiveness, to identify additional efforts that would lead to reduction of excavation damage, and to coordinate damage prevention efforts. Identifying the most successful of these efforts will facilitate additional improvement in the already high level of safety. The success of joint QAT efforts in other areas makes us confident that this approach can reduce the incident of such damage. An alliance of the Office of Pipeline Safety, operators of all underground facilities (natural gas, pipeline, telecommunications, electricity, etc.), unites the resources of all parties who could contribute to further initiatives. **(Continued on page 4)**

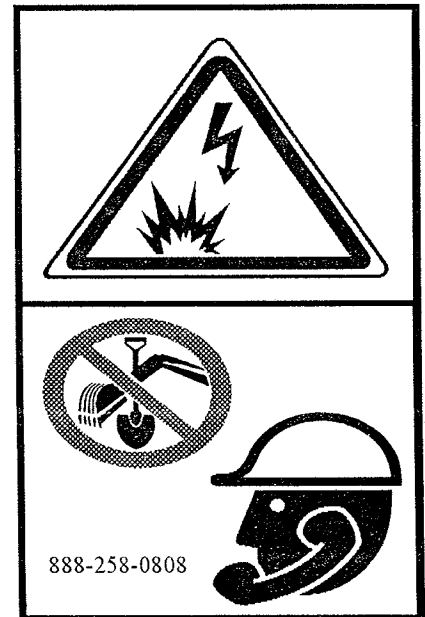
NTDPC...What Are We All About

The founding or parent organization for this industry forum is the California Common Carrier Steering Committee, which was formed in 1989 by the carriers jointly occupying the Southern Pacific (SP) Railroads California coastal condominium cable duct system. The carriers initially sought to address common problems in a coordinated manner, under the terms and conditions of their individual contractual agreements with the SP. Once the non-competitive structure of the forum was established, various working agreements were successfully forged that contribute significantly to network reliability for all the carriers. Our Commitment to contractors and excavators who work along our fiber optic rights-of way was to support them in obtaining more accessible One Call services that are easier to use. This also included enhancements to services provided by the One Calls nationwide. At the same time we committed to the One Call industry to aggressively promote its use by anyone intending to excavate.

In May of 1990, the four largest inter-exchange carriers formed a non-competitive industry committee called the National Common Carrier Cable Hazard Prevention Committee (NCCCHPC). The founding charter members included AT&T, MCI, Sprint, and WilTel. Work began in addressing, in an IEC industry coordinated manner, the leading issues which impact no-notification cable cuts. By 1994, with the prospect of eventually entering the long distance business, local exchange carriers (LECS) began actively seeking-

(Continued on page 2)

EQUIPMENT DECALS



888-258-0808

(See page 3)

Excellence

People who have accomplished work worth while have had a very high sense of the way to do things. They have not been content with mediocrity. They have never been satisfied to do things just as others do them, but always a little better. They always pushed things that came to their hands a little higher up, a little farther on. It is this little higher up, this little farther on, that counts in the quality of life's work. It is the constant effort to be first-class in everything one attempts that conquers the heights of excellence.

Orison Swett Marden

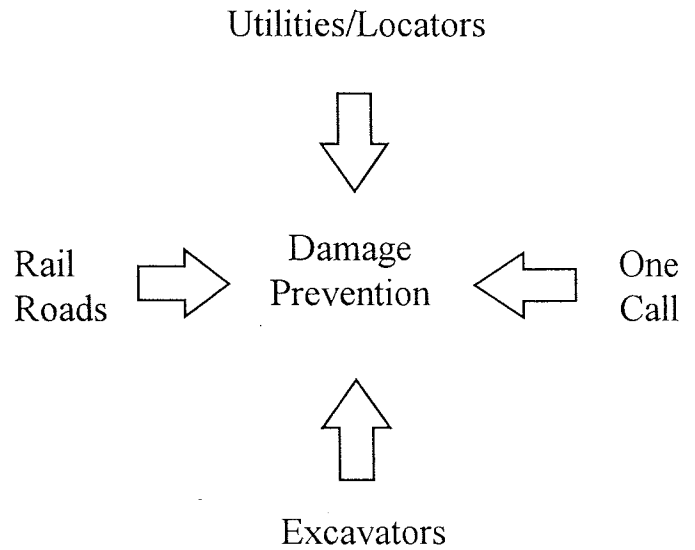
Education Events

Qwest communications in partnership with WorldCom hosted a series of Railroad "Cable Awareness" sessions for both BNSF and UP/SP railroads. Two new fiber systems have been completed by Qwest Communications construction company on RR ROW from Dallas to Houston and from Denver to El Paso. These events were held to inform and educate railroad personnel of the new routes and educate them of the importance of "Call Before You Dig". George Pohlen of WorldCom and Sara Wade of Qwest sponsored three lunch meetings in Corsicana, Hearne, and Houston, Texas. Joining these two, were representatives from Sprint, MCI, SW Bell, and Texas Excavation Safety System at all three meetings. Lonestar Notification visited with the group in Houston for the last session.

Four additional sessions were held in September for the build from Denver to El Paso. These sessions were targeted primarily for the Burlington Northern/Sante Fe railroad personnel. The fiber build for Qwest/WorldCom was touching on virgin territory. BN/SF had never allowed a longitudinal build the scope of this magnitude by an outside contractor before. Along with Qwest and WorldCom hosting these meetings were Sprint and MCI. Sessions involved videos, carriers local field technicians, as well as a very informative presentation by "Grandpa" George. Lunch was served during some rather interesting question and answer sessions. The attendance on part of the railroads was outstanding. The companies involved in the sessions, had the opportunity to give out promotional items and meet personally with the local railroad employees and supervisors. Future educational presentations are being scheduled in Utah, Nevada, and California

Submitted by Sara Wade

PARTNERSHIP's!!!!



NTDPC (Continued from page 1)

membership in the NCCCHPC. As a result the name was changed in October of 1995 to the National Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council (NTDPC). The NTDPC believes in partnerships, that's why railroads have been active members since inception, it's also the reason we have been so active in OCSI (One Call Systems International). We believe that to foster change, improve existing damage prevention programs, to improve/enhance the excavation notification service and cooperation among other underground utilities, one must get involved and participate actively with each other at every level. Just recently, the NTDPC opened it's membership to include representation from OCSI and the American Petroleum Institute. What do we believe?

One Call:

- Interstate accessible toll-free number
- 7 day, 24 hour service
- Railroad mile marker data interface
- Standard machine readable ticket format
- Strong legislation against non-users

Regional Committees:

- Organizations to address local issues

Carrier Cooperation:

- Joint mutual notification agreement
- Joint relocation projects
- Joint signage projects
- Mutual aid emergency restoration support
- Collocated facilities mapping

Call Before You Dig Awareness:

- Cooperative awareness events/education
- Municipal/County/State Agencies
- Public Service Announcements

Who Are We?

Need more information about the National Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council or any of it's activities, please contact anyone of the following:

AT&T	Larry Moss	816-391-4999
AT&T	Mary Smith	770-785-3409
MCI	Tom Shimon	972-918-1205
MCI	Carl Croft	716-2624775
Sprint	Terry Zachman	404-649-5355
WorldCom	George Pohlen	918-590-3378
WorldCom	Dan Simpson	918-590-6977
Qwest	Sara Wade	303-291-1459
SW Bell	Roger Stepp	314-235-2743
GTE Telecom	Deb McCollum	314-332-7353
GTE	Bob Miller	314-332-7362
US West	John Gowens	602-630-6039
Ameritech	Joe Terrell	312-727-6673
Pacific Bell	Jerry Yim	415-542-1293
Bell South	Griff Goad	904-350-7918
NYNEX	Paul Cloran	617-743-0084

Equipment Decal

For the past three years the NTDPC has been working with excavation equipment manufacturers to have a Call Before You Dig decal on their equipment to warn operators of the utility hazards lurking underground. Under the direction of Ray Muhs (AT&T), George Pohlen (WorldCom) and Mark Frost (JULIE) this will now be a reality in the near future. These three have been working with EMI (Equipment Manufacturers Institute) about the need for this sticker. After attending many meetings with the various groups of EMI, design, styles, colors, and the proper international diagrams all had to be determined before it could be accepted by the governing body. In addition to the warning decal, at the request of EMI, there will be a single toll-free number on the decal that the operator can call to find his/her nearest state one call agency (more on this in a future newsletter).

So now you ask....what does this do for me? Good question. Equipment will now, at the time of assembly, have a single unified decal warning of the hazards of hitting an underground utility along with a single toll free number to call to get information of where to place an excavation notification request. This is a major step towards reducing damages to underground plant by excavators. It's a major step in reducing human fatalities and/or legal ramifications.

The decal and the single toll-free referral number has been proposed to and approved by OCSI (One Call Systems International) and the APWA (American Public Works Association). More to Come...

Submitted by Tom Shimon

Telecommunications One Call Board Member Seminars

In May of 1996, the NTDPC hosted a Telecom Board Member Seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to share common views and new emerging technologies with telecommunications board members throughout the United States. Items discussed were data collection and interpretation, legislative efforts, GPS and how it plays into the future of One Call, and advertising/education.

The only qualification for getting invited was to be a member of a One Call board of directors or trustee, and be in the telephony business. The telephony business has been expanded by recent developments and now includes: Local Telco, Inter-exchange Carriers, Alternate Access Providers, and Cable Television. The feed back from this event was so positive that the event will be held again this year. In order to make the Second Annual event even better, the survey results and comments sheet were closely reviewed and analyzed. Many of the attendees from the first seminar have already called to find out when the next event will be held for 1997, so stay tuned for another great event brought to you by the cooperation of the Telecommunications Industry.

First, there will be two events rather than one large one. This will allow more people to attend based on geography and schedules. The first seminar will be held the 4th and 5th of February in San Diego and the second one will be held on the 18th and 19th of February in Nashville. Invitations have been sent to those board members that are on our current list. If we missed you or for some reason you did not receive an invitation. Please contact one of the NTDPC members listed in this issue.

Tentative Agenda for the 1997 Seminars

"Roundtable Discussions"

- Excavator and Education opportunities
- What are the contractors telling us
- New Technologies and Member needs
- One Call performance standards

"Excavator Educational Opportunities - Partnering with Regional Groups"

- Booths
- Joint Handouts
- Public Service Announcements
- Example of contractor presentations

"How Does Government Affect Us?"

- Legislation
- Fines & Penalties
- Enforcement

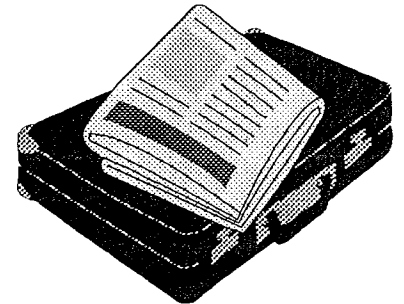
"What are the Contractors Telling us?"

- Excavation /Locate contractors
- Positive Response
- 24 hour coverage
- How can the owners & centers help me?"

"New Technologies & Member Needs"

- New technologies
- Responding to member needs
- Partnering with other utilities
- Automating positive response
- GPS

"Follow up Panel & Closing (Q&A)"



Submitted by Carl Croft

Please direct any questions or comments to Tom Shimon at the return address of this newsletter

Joint Government Continued from page 1

This group would organize and sponsor a national campaign to reduce accidents. The team's mission is to identify the audiences most in need of education about excavation damage prevention to underground facilities and offshore pipelines and the most effective methods for reaching them. The team will also evaluate the effectiveness of public education materials currently used by industry and states. This will include print and broadcast media. The team will also develop materials for use in nationwide campaign by drawing on some materials now in use and developing new ones.

The team includes representatives from each of the following;

- the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS)
- One Call Systems International
- a gas transmission company
- a gas distribution company
- a liquid pipeline company
- the insurance industry
- the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR)
- the National Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council

The NTDPC is very proud and honored to be recognized by the Department of Transportation for the efforts put into facility damage prevention. Our primary concern has been to reduce damages to telecommunications facilities, but the many ideas introduced over the years will clearly have a positive impact on damage prevention to all underground facilities and many will incorporated in the forthcoming national campaign.

Submitted by Roger Stepp

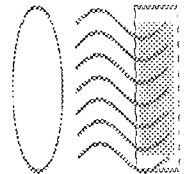
Future Articles

- National One Call Number
- Board Member Seminar
- Legislative Changes
- Damage: No Notification Study
- Regional Reports
- One Call Updates
- Damage Prevention Event Calendar
- OCSI Symposium 1997.....



New York City

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Mailing Label