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Member Seminar

Want to Know More About
OCSI?
www.tfs.net/apwa/ocsi.html

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NTDPC INFO-LINK

National Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council
Information Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

"Partners in Damage Prevention"

2nd Qtr. 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.

Board Member Seminar

The NTDPC held it's second annual Telecommunications Board Member seminar in February. In order to get maximum participation the NTDPC held two seminars this year, one in San Diego and the other in Nashville. In total, 85 people participated as attendees and presenters. The comments from the feedback sheets was very positive, so, plans are being made for more in 1998. Technology, was the key subject with a lot of discussion on the possibilities that the new technology brings. In fact there are so many innovations coming along that next years technology presentations may need to be broken out into separate subsections. The legislative sessions were also well received, a common theme amongst the presenters seemed to be that as good citizens, we should be involved on a daily basis with what our law-makers are doing for (or to) us. Dave Sheriden from the Iowa Attorney General's office gave us some keen insight to the leverage his office was able to use in support of their recently passed legislation requiring mandatory participation. The round table discussions gave us all some new insights to the problems we are facing on a daily basis in this industry. The input from these round tables should provide us with some interesting opportunities as we sift through them and understand what to do and where to go with them. If you did not get the chance to attend the first two seminars, mark your calendars for February of 1998 to attend one of the Third Annual Telecommunications Board Members Seminars.

Carl Croft MCI

New Utility Markings

Recently BELLSOUTH employees discovered that in certain circumstances buried cable placed in new subdivisions may go un-marked if the locate request arrives just before the cable was placed. While the chances were slim that these conditions happen repeatedly they were occurring occasionally in rapid growth situations. The solution was to temporarily mark new cables as they were placed. The temporary marks span the gap from request for locate and newly placed facilities. A single page graphic was electronically mailed to all placing locations. In less than 24 hours the solution was disseminated to contractors, thereby eliminating a potential gap in the damage prevention Process.

(see graphic on page 2)

Farewell To George Pohlen

George "Grandpa" Pohlen (WorldCom) announced his retirement in April. George is an inspiration to us all as he was the premier exhorter of Call Before You Dig in all areas of the industry. George was one of the founding members of the NTDPC, formally the National Common Carrier Cable Hazard Prevention Committee. This was greeted by admission of knowledge of the event by most NTDPC members, but this made it no less remorseful for our membership as we recognize George as a tremendous contributor to the damage prevention efforts. George was showered with many gifts of appreciation by the NTDPC and others from the One Call industry. Farewell George... we will miss you!

"Pardners"

Arizona has successfully transitioned to one center as of April One. The Arizona Blue Stake Center now provides service throughout Arizona. Previously the south-eastern portion of the state was handled from a center located in Tucson. To assist with the transition, the Arizona Blue Stakes Center and facility owners sponsored nine public awareness dinners on Damage Prevention throughout southern Arizona and the Phoenix metropolitan area. Both excavators and new members were invited to attend these 2 1/2 hour evening presentations. Handouts were provided by the sponsoring facility owners, as well as, the dinners for the event. Costs were shared equally amongst the sponsors. The Arizona Blue Stake Centers Education Director, Helen Biallas, opened the events to explain the centers operation practices, and touched on the dig laws for Arizona. Facility owners followed with brief presentations identifying the capabilities of their facilities and the need to prevent damages in order to protect network reliability. The telecommunications industry was represented by ATT, MCI, and USWest. Other sponsors included the pipeline industry for petroleum and natural gas products.

(Cont' on page 3)

Cooperation!

Coming together is a beginning;
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success.

Henry Ford

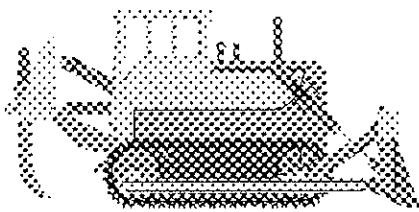
New BELLSOUTH Marking Standard for New Utility Placement Continued from page one

Facility Solutions

■ **PROBLEM:** BELLSOUTH cables placed within 14 days after location requests in developing subdivisions are exposed to indiscriminate digging. Existing utilities are marked, the excavators waiting the appropriate time mistakenly assume all facilities present have been located.



■ **SOLUTION:** OSP Contractors in Indian River Florida and Atlanta Georgia are marking (while placing) with either flags or Safety Alert Orange paint all new cable placed in probable construction areas. This eliminates any gap between an excavation notification date and the identification of newly placed cable. All other BELLSOUTH locations are encouraged to adopt this solution immediately. Additional cost should be no more than the cost of paint or flags. The Contract Coordinators have been informed of this and will assist in implementing. All future OSP contracts and practices will include this feature. Questions may be referred to Griff Goad (205) 977-5084.



BELLSOUTH

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
AT&T	Dee Rosco	801-943-7593
MCI	Tom Shimon	972-918-1205
MCI	Carl Croft	716-262-4775
Sprint	Terry Zachman	404-649-2355
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	205-977-5084
NYNEX	Paul Cloran	617-743-0084

1997 NTDPC Goals and Objectives

- 1.) Participate in (4) National Trade Shows
 - Outside Plant Exposition, December 1996
 - National Home Builders Show, January 1997
 - National Utility Contractors Association, March 1997
 - International Contractor Utility Equipment Expo, Sept. 1997
- 2.) Develop a NTDPC Newsletter
- 3.) Develop alliance with the National Utility Contractors Assoc.
- 4.) Develop an Alliance with the American Petroleum Institute
- 5.) Develop a relationship with the Office of Pipeline Safety
- 6.) Publish "Cut...No Notification Damage Study"
- 7.) Explore Internet Home Page for the NTDPC
- 8.) Prepare for the 1998 One Call Board of Director Seminar.

Why OCSI

Many people ask "Why should I join OCSI?" First what is OCSI, it stands for One Call Systems International and it's just that a system to improve public safety and awareness of buried facilities by increasing the effectiveness of the One Call Systems. Who is it made up of? One Call organizations, facility owners and operators, locating firms, municipalities, excavators, and other stakeholders in the One Call and damage prevention industry.

Now, why do we need you...OCSI gives it's members many opportunities:

- o The ability to network with others who share common interests.
- o To participate in damage prevention activities at all levels.
- o To seek industry wide input into the resolution of problems
- o To promote public safety through advancement of educational programs.
- o To advance professional development of all.
- o To encourage and respond to new technologies.

These are just a few of the reasons why you and your employer should consider becoming members of OCSI. Your reasons may be different, but your contributions as a member will increase the benefits of membership for all.

Pardners Continued from page 1

electricity providers and natural gas distributors. Facility owners expounded on the costs associated with damages, third party liabilities and safety concerns. It was explained to the excavator audience that damages impacted their bottom line for the cost of repairs and delays to their projects. The nine presentations had over 538 attendees that were excavators and facility owners. The information was well received by the audiences and will become an annual function in Arizona. Northern Arizona has been conducting these types of presentations for the past nine years and have been proven to be very successful. The last presentation for this area was completed in the fall of 1996 and had over 634 attendees. These events are held in different cities and communities over a three week period. The education events have provided useful information to the excavators and has opened the dialog with the facility owners and this industry. One of the presenters in attendance was an officer from the Arizona Corporation Commission who provided details of the state dig laws and the civil penalties associated with not calling before you dig or not excavating prudently in order to prevent damages. These events has most definitely opened the doors to the excavating contractors who have requested damage prevention presentations for their employees.

John Gowans USWEST

Call Before You Dig Education On Track With Railroad Employees

NTDPC member companies WorldCom, MCI, AT&T, and Sprint completed the annual first quarter Call Before You Dig training sessions in conjunction with the CSX Employee Safety Certification Program, resulting in a record number of attendees this year. Well over 2700 CSX employees listened to presentations by NTDPC member company employees who fielded questions, sought solutions to problems with railroads being unable to use most One Call Centers, and handed out reminder items with emergency numbers for each of the fiber based carriers.

Working closely with P.J. Crisafi and Jim Cashwill of CSX Safety to keep up with the ever changing training schedule, presenters were able to reach approximately 70% of the classes scheduled this year. According to the safety trainers, the importance of calling before digging in reaching more and more of the track and maintenance crews each year. The classes look forward to hearing the fiber companies presentations and know that it is a great time to work out problems, make new contacts, and of course get hats, gloves, calling cards, or coffee cups that remind them throughout the year.

Plans are already underway for the 1998 sessions with hopes of setting yet another record of the number of railroad employees we are able to train. According to Dan Simpson, WorldCom, schedule coordinator for 1997, the key to damage prevention on railroad rights-of way is a partnership approach with the railroad employees. We help support their safety program and they help us by reporting people working along the rights-of way when no flags or apparent locate marks are present. The notification rate of direct calls to the WorldCom CBUD center increases each year we take time to train the railroad employees, asking for their assistance in patrolling our fiber routes. That partnership works both ways as was recently proven when an outside plant coordinator found a semi-truck high centered on a road crossing, called the railroad to report the hazard and was told that there was train on the track headed for that location. By the time the train had stopped, it was less that quarter mile from the crossing and would not have seen the truck until it was too late, had the call not been made.

Dan Simpson WorldCom

For More Information

Visit our Web Page

www.tfs.net/apwa/ocsi.html

OCSI is looking for new members with innovative ideas and willingness to share. Involvement is volunteering for committees to promote those new concepts and ideas that only you as a new member can bring to the table. So don't stand on the sidelines, join us today.

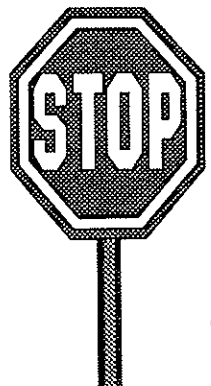
NTDPC Cable Cut -No CBUD Ticket Damage Study (IXC's only)

	1996 Top Offending States								
	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	
CA	4	0	5	3	1	1	3	7	
AL	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	
TX	0	0	2	1	3	2	2	5	
AR	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	
IL	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	
IN	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	
MO	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	
OH	2	2	2	0	1	0	1	3	
FL	3	4	2	4	1	3	6	2	
LA	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	
NC	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	
TN	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	

Top Offending States from 1989 thru 1996

FL	25
CA	24
TX	15
IL	14
NC	14
AL	11
OH	11
TN	9
GA	8
LA	7
MI	7
NJ	7

Springtime is upon us, the height of the DIG season is here, let's work together to STOP those offenders who refuse to **Call Before They Dig!!**



Sprint Call Before You Dig PSA Program

From late 1995 through early 1997, Sprint sent Call Before You Dig Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to major television stations in 14 states. Working with One Call organizations throughout the country, Sprint was able to send nearly 225 PSAs to major TV stations in these states. In most cases, these One Call agencies purchased the CBYD video from the Ohio Utilities Protection Service and then used it for their own states with the help of Sprint.

Sprint's role was to use their own extensive TV station contact lists, and any suggested additions from the One Call agencies, to target the most appropriate and largest stations, reproduce the videos in the format, such as, beta, 3/4" or 1", that the station prefers, and then send it with a Sprint produced cover letter, which detailed the importance of the PSA to each station. The One Call organizations paid for the tape, if purchased from Ohio, and the reproduction costs, which, depending on the number of stations covered, ranged from less than \$100 to almost \$2,000.

Although it's difficult to gauge the effectiveness of the PSA's and their use by the targeted stations, the Ohio One Call performed a random survey on its customers that produced encouraging results for the PSA category. The Ohio agency normally call five callers every day to check on their customer service. After the release of the Ohio CBYD with the help of Sprint, they received an 18 percent positive response to the question about whether the surveyed customer had seen the PSA.

If you would like to be a part of this program, please call Jeff Chaltas in Sprint Corporate Communications at 913-534-3488.

States covered by the program followed by the number of stations as of Jan. 1, 1997 are; Colorado (10), Indiana (12), Kentucky (10), Maine (6), Massachusetts (11), Mississippi (15), New Hampshire (3), New York (upstate) (30), North Carolina (6), Ohio (30), Rhode Island (2), Tennessee (8), Vermont (3), and Texas (75).

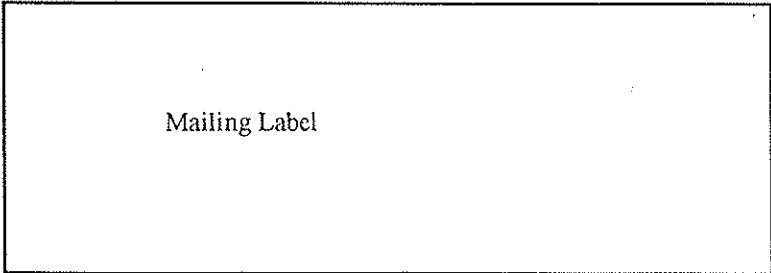
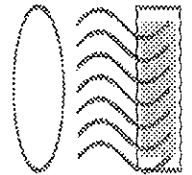
Future Articles

- National One Call Number
- 1998 Board Member Seminar
- Legislative Changes
- Regional Reports
- One Call Updates
- Damage Prevention Event Calendar
- OCSI Reports
- OCSI Symposium 1998.....



Vancouver, BC

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Mailing Label