



INFO-LINK

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Info Link Quarterly ENewsletter

With this issue of the NTDPC Info-Link, we reintroduce an old friend. Beginning in 1997, this publication sought to raise awareness in damage prevention by discussing critical issues of the day, like:

- The formation of a joint government-industry damage prevention team
 - NTDPC members took leadership positions in what evolved into the CGA; we still belong and we still participate.
- Spreading the word on the nationwide "888" excavator referral number, for the one-call agencies
 - NTDPC efforts later led to the establishment of #DIG (#344) for cellular; currently, our member companies are heavily involved with 811 implementation.
- Developing partnerships with utilities, locators, railroads, excavators and the one-calls – all with a common goal, damage prevention
 - Ongoing
- Exploring the possibility of "an Internet home page" for the Council, to enhance our support of industry trade shows and extend our awareness reach
 - Hopefully you've seen it – www.ntdpc.com
- Encouraging membership in OCSI
 - This organization now resides under the CGA umbrella; our Council has representation there, and OCSI has representation on the NTDPC

Interestingly, with the passage of several years, these items have evolved but remain critical to damage prevention. The NTDPC was founded many years ago on the idea of bringing together damage prevention professionals in a common forum to address joint solutions to problems. Our Council has been at the forefront of many issues, and continues to be involved. New members join, existing members merge and change names, participants are replaced....but our mission remains the same. Take a look at the new Info-Link. Review what we have accomplished and what we are attempting to accomplish, both at the Council and the subcommittee level. Check back often to see what we are doing, where we are going and how you can get involved. We would appreciate any feedback you might have.

What is the NTDPC?

The NTDPC is a non-competitive forum, established in 1989, promoting underground facility protection, excavator awareness, and use of One-Call. As leaders in the telecommunications industry, the members of the NTDPC share a common and active interest in protecting all telecommunications networks regardless of ownership. Participation in NTDPC efforts allows entities to share in the Council's goal of protecting the integrity of vital underground telecommunications services through identification, promotion, and implementation of effective damage prevention practices.

Areas of FOCUS:

Developing improved coordination between member companies on parallel system construction

- Conducting industry educational seminars
- Working closely with research efforts designed to reduce outages and create a safer workplace
- Facility locate ticket effectiveness and consistency
- Supporting outstanding events such as International Locate Rodeo, the Horizontal Directional Drilling Rodeo, and Underground Focus Live!
- Implementing "811" access to the appropriate state One-Calls

NTDPC Voting Members



NTDPC Accomplishments

- NTDPC was chosen as the national core of telecommunications damage prevention experts to staff the Federal DOT/OPS Best Practices task force
- Railroad integration/partnership
- Railroad's continuing efforts to provide better quality tickets to their fiber optic customers through recent inclusion by UPRR of GIS mapping information
- Leadership roles on various state One-Call boards
- Developed, staffed, judged dozens of industry events with a damage prevention focus
- Led efforts contributing to the passage of the Federal Comprehensive One-Call Notification Act
- Communication, promotion of the "Dig Safely" program
- Common Ground study development, and ongoing leadership roles in the Common Ground Alliance

The NTDPC believes that damage prevention is a shared responsibility of all parties involved – the One-Call centers, utility owners, excavators, and locators. By communicating, partnering together and following best practices, we have realized damage prevention process improvements, and look forward to further reductions in facility damages.

Because of the NTDPC's tremendous ongoing efforts, we feel it is only appropriate to open the line of communication between our members and all One-Call Telecommunications Board Members representing the industry. Please help us do so by becoming more involved in the NTDPC and the efforts of our subcommittees.

2006 NTDPC Goals & Objectives

- Grow membership and Grow Participation; this makes NTDPC a stronger, more vibrant organization.
- Actively promote the NTDPC and contractor awareness by participation in tradeshow, excavator breakfasts, etc.
- Collaboration with other national organizations (i.e. CGA, NUCA, NULCA).
- Stay abreast of legislative issues and promote the NTDPC model State One Call Bill.
- Participate in DIRT Damage Data Reporting as a telecom industry and use DIRT for analysis.

NTDPC Sub Committees

The basic mission of the NTDPC remains the same, however, there are several subcommittees within the council that have been created to accommodate industry changes and trends:

- **The National Telecommunications Screening Center Forum (NTSCF)**. This group seeks ways to further share useful information on common One-Call center concerns, and seeks joint solutions by interfacing with groups such as OCSI. **GOAL:** Finalize an updated list of all One-Call telecommunications board members, including contact information. Trend current scorecard data and create format for presenting data to One-call boards.
- **The Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Task Force**. This group stays abreast of new technologies and issues within this industry. Members stay engaged with efforts designed to raise damage prevention awareness, and user proficiency, within this highly specialized area.
- **The Railroad Subcommittee**. This group enables railroad and telecommunications members to work on issues of mutual interest, such as mapping, derailment notifications, and access to right-of-ways.
- **The Trend Analysis Subcommittee**. This group develops analysis reports summarizing NTDPC data and compares this with national data from the Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT). Their goal is to better understand the causes of damage, which will assist the council in directing our educational/awareness focus.
- **The Public Policy Subcommittee**. This group seeks to gain endorsement of the NTDPC's Model One-Call Bill by other organizations dedicated to underground utility protection. It also assesses individual One-Call or "dig" laws in terms of damage prevention effectiveness. **GOAL:** Analyze NTDPC Data and provide two recommendations to the NTDPC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:



**CSX Transportation,
Inc.**

2006 NTDP Quarterly Conference Schedule

*July 11-13, 2006
Vancouver Canada
Canadian Pacific Railroad*

*October 10-12, 2006
Pittsburgh, PA
PA One Call*

NTDPC Damage Prevention Trade Show Events 2006

*OSP Expo
June 4-8, 2006
Chicago, IL*

*Underground Focus Live
August 22-24, 2006
Joliet, IL*

*REMSA / AREMA
September 17-19, 2006
Louisville, KY*

- **The Budget/Planning Subcommittee.** This group stays focused on the broad goals and objectives of the council, seeking to maximize member return on investment.
- **The Educational / Marketing Committee.** To educate the community and expand their knowledge on damage prevention issues and to inform them of current projects / issues the NTDP is involved in by distributing our quarterly newsletter. GOAL: Education – Newsletter, brochures & One-Call articles. Marketing – participating in trade shows, excavator dinners, trade publications & website upgrade.

Underground Telecommunications Damage Prevention Scholarships

In 2004, the NTDP recognized the need to communicate damage prevention practices to the next generation of excavators and project managers. To meet this need, the NTDP established the Underground Telecommunications Damage Prevention Scholarship (UTDPS). This is a non-endowed gift to a university or trade school for the benefit of students studying fields related to underground construction. La Tech University, renowned for its research and development in Trenchless Technology, was the first university selected to receive the scholarship. Arizona State University, through its Del E. Webb School of Construction, has demonstrated leadership in damage prevention practices and is the latest college to receive the UTDPS.

Students receiving the UTDPS must be:

- Full time student in field related to underground construction
- Junior standing or above
- Minimum 3.0 grade point average

If there is a school or university that should be considered for scholarship monies, please visit www.ntdpc.com.

Contractors Awareness Dinner

The NTDP, in conjunction with its quarterly meeting held throughout the US and Canada is sponsoring Contractor Awareness Dinners in partnership of the local One-Call Notification centers. The purpose of these events is to educate the excavating community, engineers, municipalities and utility owners in that locale on issues related to damage prevention. Railroad safety, legislative updates & national damage prevention initiative are also presented discussed. Previous events have been previously held in Texas and Virginia and current planning is being conducted for Canada.

NTDPC Exhibits at CGA's Annual Meeting



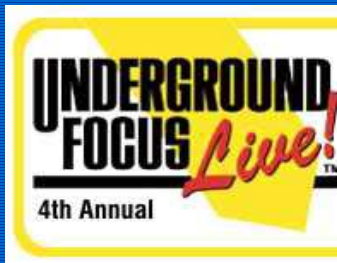
RELATED LINKS



Conference & Expo
Dec. 6-7, 2006
Phoenix, AZ



*A member-driven
association dedicated to
ensuring public safety,
environmental protection,
and the integrity of
services by promoting
effective damage
prevention practices*



STATE ONE CALL LAWS

**One Call Systems
International - OCSI**
*to promote facility damage
prevention and
infrastructure protection
through education,
guidance and assistance to
one call centers
internationally*

NTDPC Officers

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BRIAN TOOLEY, Verizon
Business

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CHRIS MOORE, AboveNet

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JASON JENIA, Sprint

CONTACT THE NTDPC

Model State One-Call Update

At its Q4 '02 meeting, the NTDPC formally adopted the Model State One Call Bill. Originally drafted by the Facilities Solution Team (comprised of Owner/Operators, Excavators, Regulators and Insurance Agents) of the Network Reliability Steering Council, the Model is a compilation of the most effective language taken from One Call or damage prevention laws across the United States. With changes in the industry as well as the development of the Common Ground Alliance and its Best Practices, the Model has been revised over the years. The purpose of the Model is to provide a guide to be used during legislative reform efforts that details minimum guidelines which should be met to enhance damage prevention through legislation. At the same time, it is hoped that the Model will aid in establishing uniformity in One Call or damage prevention laws across all state lines. For more information on, or to download the Model for review, please visit www.ntdpc.com.

One-Call Law Summary

In an effort to learn more about state one call laws and determine which states are more effective than others, the NTDPC embarked on a detailed analysis of each state One Call or Damage Prevention law across the United States. Sixteen specific issues, color coded to show stakeholder duty, which have the greatest impact to underground facility damage prevention are addressed. The spreadsheet, in Excel format, contains the work and research of members of the NTDPC's Public Policy sub-committee. Each state, as well as the District of Columbia, is listed with its own language pertaining to the particular issue. By scrolling down the spreadsheet, each state can easily be compared to the Model. And, the CGA Best Practices have been added to allow comparison against each state law as well.

If you are aware of recent changes to a state law, or note a revision required, please visit www.ntdpc.com.

NTSCF Scorecard

The primary objectives of the National Telecommunications Screening Center Forum (NTSCF) are to become more involved in One-Call processes and to influence change at the One-Calls that will benefit all stakeholders. In 2005, the NTSCF sharpened its focus on a goal of improving One-Call ticket quality. As a telecom group, once we had framed our idea of a high quality product, we realized there was a marked disparity as you moved from agency to agency. As a general example, one view of "high ticket quality" ties directly to the amount of useful information, as regards researching a scheduled excavation, when compared to other agencies.

In order to better analyze which One-Call agencies provide adequate information on an excavation ticket, the NTSCF created its Ticket Quality Scorecard. Currently, the NTSCF Scorecard depicts the specific ticket fields and available information on the One-Call tickets (found by our members researching multiple tickets from each One-Call) versus what information each One-Call considers "required" and/or "dedicated" information regarding an excavation. Our findings indicated that some information that is important to the stakeholders (i.e. site contact number, nearest cross street) may not necessarily be perceived as "required" or necessary information at the One-Call level.

We realize that there is a certain sensitivity component to any rankings report, but again, the NTSCF wants to take an active role in influencing changes that would benefit all One-Call stakeholders. The NTSCF would like to begin presenting the reported discrepancies to each One-Call board, and work with them to drive improvements in ticket quality. To help advance this initiative, the NTSCF plans to share Scorecard results, and ongoing change requests, through the One-Call Telecommunications board members. This information will be incorporated into a quarterly Newsletter, which we feel will also provide useful information to this group, provide a basis for networking, and open the lines of communication between the board members and the NTDPC. As ours is a dynamic industry, our hope is that all will gain knowledge through these efforts. For more information on the NTDPC, the NTSCF, these efforts and others related to damage prevention and network reliability – please visit www.ntdpc.com.

Membership Information

To discover the benefits of membership of our council, please go to the website and review the new Member's Slide Show. For more information, to attend a meeting or to request a membership form, please contact any of our members or visit www.ntdpc.com.

