



# INFO-LINK

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## Info Link Quarterly ENewsletter

Last quarter's e-newsletter provided an overview of the NTDPC's history, and its active involvement in critical efforts related to damage prevention. True to form, changes have taken place since then, most notably:

- To reflect the value added to the Council by our Canadian membership, at our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting we elected to change our name to the North American Telecommunications Damage Prevention Council. Because our acronym has become synonymous with damage prevention in our industry sectors, we also elected to remain "the NTDPC". Look for logo & branding changes beginning in 2007.
- The Council has helped organize, and has participated in meetings designed to more-broadly educate key stakeholders in 811. Deliverables from these meetings can be used in discussions as we work toward the FCC-mandated implementation date next April. Overall success will require the collective and collaborative efforts of many, not limited to but including the NTDPC, CGA, OCSI, individual One-Call agencies, and their board members. (see related article below)

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## NTSCF Update

The NTSCF (National Telecommunications Screening Center Forum) continues to work on its One-Call ticket quality initiative. The latest accomplishment was achieved after a member company experienced problems with its ticket sequencing process and character limitations in the remarks field of tickets received from TNOCS (Tennessee One-Call System). After communicating with TNOCS and working together on a solution, the fix was accomplished by TNOCS developing a specific format and output for that company. This remedy was relayed to the other member companies and can be applied to other One-Call Notification Centers using the same software.

## Warning Tickets in NM

In New Mexico, UFO's (underground facility operators) can now be issued a "Warning Ticket" by NMOC (NM One-Call). This type of ticket is sent to operators when two working days have passed since the locate request was received AND either the operator has not marked or provided 'Positive Response' AND the excavator is on site ready to dig. After receipt of this type of ticket, the UFO will then have two hours to respond, after which the excavator can proceed. The warning tickets are also sent to the Pipeline Safety Office; any single UFO receiving multiple warning tickets may be subject to a citation.

The NTSCF encourages all Telecom board members to communicate any changes being considered at their specific One-Call Notification Centers, so that the impact of these changes can be evaluated by all. Through effective communication, valuable information can be shared that affects internal processes and procedures for member companies as well as the One-Call center. Additionally, Telecom board members are invited to attend NTSCF meetings, typically held on the Tuesday afternoon prior to each NTDPC meeting.

For more information on the NTSCF, please contact the NTSCF chairperson listed on our website at [www.ntdpc.com](http://www.ntdpc.com).

## NTDPC

### Voting Members



## VA Pilot Program

In order to research and develop new technologies to enhance the communication of accurate information between excavators, One-Call centers, operators and locators, the VA Utility Protection Service (VUPS) has embarked on the VA Pilot Program. Multiple stakeholders are participating on this project, which essentially seeks to minimize over-notification.

The concept utilizes wireless 'smart' phones and GPS technology to communicate with the One-Call center, and provides an 'electronic white line' of the proposed excavation site. This enables the excavator to complete the Internet Ticket Entry at the job site, leading to more accurate locate requests. VUPS then transmits the ticket to its members, or their designated locators, who can then complete the locate. With GPS technology incorporated into locating equipment, an 'electronic manifest' can be generated which clearly depicts the markings and is time-stamped for verification. Locators can then respond to the VA Positive Response System while still in the field, and the excavator receives a response directly to his wireless laptop or 'smart' phone.

Potential benefits of the VA Pilot Program include greater overall efficiencies for all involved in the locate process, more accurate information being communicated, and a corresponding reduction in damages as a result. The testing phase of the project has just begun in Fairfax County, VA and is scheduled to complete in April 2007, with results expected in July 2007.

Stay tuned for updates as this vital project moves forward.

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## Education & Marketing Update

### 3Q Contractor Awareness Dinner

On July 11 the NTDPC partnered with the British Columbia One-Call to sponsor a Contractor Awareness dinner for the local contractors. Featured topics and speakers included an introduction to the NTDPC, followed by Arch York (Sprint Nextel) and Mike Lewzader (Union Pacific Railroad) discussing the strategic partnership developed over time through our membership. Constable Rutledge of the Canadian Pacific Railroad gave a short talk on railroad safety. Brian Tooley (Verizon Business) and Mike Shallow (UPRR) gave an overview of the Common Ground Alliance's Damage Information Reporting Tool, and the data evaluated for the first annual report released in December of 2005. The presentations continued with Darleen Dyson, Operations Manager of the BC One-Call spotlighting the growth of the damage prevention message for this region. The meeting was closed out with the Executive Director of the BC Regional CGA Scott Henley's presentation

on the recent establishment of the Canadian Regional Partnership committee for the British Columbia area. The NTDPC would like to thank once more all those in attendance, and the BC One-Call for the arrangements they provided.



### NTDPC Donates Long Distance Calling Cards

Calling cards bearing the NTDPC logo are a hot commodity with excavators, and at industry trade shows. These cards remind users of the four points of the "Dig Safely" program, and when used callers hear a reminder to call before they dig. In February the council realized that a cache of 600 twenty-minute cards remained from the original 5000, and needed to be utilized; the membership unanimously voted to donate these remaining cards to two worthy organizations that had received similar contributions in the past. 300 cards were sent to the Medical Family Assistance Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington DC, with the balance going to the Target House at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in Memphis, TN. Both of these fine institutions expressed their thanks on behalf of their patients and their families.

## NTDPC

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:



### NTDPC Officers

**Chairperson**  
**BRIAN TOOLEY,**  
Verizon Business

**Vice Chairperson**  
**CHRIS MOORE,**  
AboveNet

**Secretary**  
**JASON JENIA,**  
Sprint Nextel

[www.ntdpc.com](http://www.ntdpc.com)

## Underground Telecommunications Damage Prevention Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2006 NTDPC Underground Telecommunications Damage Prevention Scholarship award winners:

- Arun Prakash Jaganathan, a civil engineering student attending LA Tech University, has a 3.75 GPA specializing in trenchless technologies, with doctoral research focused on electromagnetism. Arun is building an excellent foundation for future work in the utility detection and damage prevention industry.
- Dae-Hyun Koo is in his final year of the PhD program at AZ State University. He is specializing in underground infrastructure.

This is the first year of the NTDPC's partnership with AZ State University and its Del E. Webb School of Construction. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting, NTDPC members voted to renew its 3 year agreement with LA Tech University to provide funding for the UT DP scholarship.

Universities awarded scholarship monies are selected based upon recommendations from members, and must offer damage prevention curriculum in their Engineering & Construction programs.

Please contact the NTDPC for more information or to make a recommendation.

## NTDPC Supports HDD Rodeo

The NTDPC played a very visible, leading role in May's Ohio HDD Rodeo, near Cleveland. Mike Lewzader, Mike McCrary and Arch York of the HDD Task Force were on hand to judge in the competition, and Eric Clegg arrived in support of Canadian National's drilling crew.

NTDPC's financial support of the event went toward a meal and the educational seminars, one of which was the HDD Good Practices Guidelines as presented by Dr. Sam Ariaratnam (AZ State University).



Overall, 13 crews competed, with a Precision Directional Boring crew winning top prize. Event organizers did a great job in planning - surveyors placed stakes to account for differences in elevation when evaluating accuracy of the pilot bore. A strong focus by the competitors was noted in areas such as sonde calibration, locating accuracy, and safety. All in all the competitors were a very professional group, which speaks well for an industry on the rebound. Additionally, 19 vendor/exhibitors were on hand for the Rodeo.

In spite of some challenging weather, all NTDPC attendees felt this was a worthwhile event, and that future HDD Rodeos are worthy of our support.



## NTDPC

### Quarterly Conference Schedule

#### 2006

**4Q October 11 -12**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Host - PA One Call**

#### 2007

**1Q January 10 – 11**  
**Atlanta, GA**  
**Host - Norfolk Southern RR**

**2Q April 11 - 12**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Host - Level(3)**

**3Q July 11 – 12**  
**Toronto, Canada**  
**Host – Bell Canada**

**4Q October 10 – 11**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**Host – CSX RR**

## NTDPC

### Upcoming Damage Prevention / Trade Show Events

**World Rail Expo 2006**  
**September 17 – 19, 2006**  
**Louisville, Kentucky**

**Contractor Awareness Function & Splicing Demo**  
**TBD (late Fall 2006)**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**

**DPC Damage Prevention Conf & Expo**  
**December 6 – 7, 2006**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

**CGA Excavation Safety Conference & Expo**  
**March 6 - 8, 2007**  
**Orlando, FL**

**ICUEE International Construction & Utility Equipment Expo**  
**Oct 16 – 18, 2007**  
**Louisville, KY**

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## Trend Analysis Update

### Damage Reporting

At its recent 3Q meeting, the sub-committee worked diligently on uploading its NTDPC damage data to DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool). DIRT, developed by the CGA, is a secure, web-based application used for the collection and reporting of underground damage information, including Near Misses.

The NTDPC was the first national trade association to formally endorse DIRT, in October 2005, although not all members currently provide data. Member data can be submitted either through the NTDPC database (designed to mirror DIRT) or through DIRT directly and then granting access to the NTDPC. By submitting data via the NTDPC database, another layer of anonymity is provided, which is an important issue to many companies.

At the sub-committee breakout session, data was uploaded via the "Front End Loader", which is data management software provided by the CGA free of charge, and is intended to avoid the need for internal database upgrades that may be required to be compatible with future upgrades of DIRT. During the upload exercise, the NTDPC again demonstrated its leadership by utilizing all facets of the DIRT tool as a minor 'bug' was identified. The DIRT development team was notified and a 'fix' was put into place.

The sub-committee is planning to present statistics and analysis of the 2005 data at the next quarterly meeting. All telecoms are encouraged to submit underground facility damage data, either to the NTDPC database for members, or to DIRT and then grant access to the NTDPC. Analysis of data can only be effective if there is participation by ALL. Once data is gathered and analyzed, it can be used in conjunction with the national reports published by CGA to find specific areas where the NTDPC can focus its resources to have the greatest impact in Damage Prevention.

For more information on DIRT, please go to [www.cga-dirt.com](http://www.cga-dirt.com)

### Vandalism on the Rise

An alarming trend of vandalism has been identified and attributed to the rise in Copper prices. Several companies have relayed incidents of copper and fiber plant being cut and stolen; even breaking into facility compounds and destroying HVAC coils and ground cables has been reported.

After raising the issue and discussing as an industry, research found that this is a worldwide problem and that several carriers have offered rewards for information leading to the arrest of these perpetrators.

The NTDPC is reaching out to the metal recycling industry for its assistance in combating this growing problem. An article is being drafted for inclusion in an upcoming edition of *Recycling Today*, an industry periodical.

Please notify the NTDPC of any breakthroughs or recommended actions in this area.

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## Railroad Committee

### Mapping as a Translation Tool

The Railroad Committee continues its ongoing project to incorporate RR mapping data into the One-Call centers' systems. The project's purpose is to correlate RR milepost data with geographic road data at the One-Call center in order to provide more accurate location descriptions for locators as well as for derailment notices.

Canadian National recently joined several other RR's in providing notices of derailments to TNOCS (Tennessee One-Call System). By providing this notice to TNOCS, members with facilities on these RR's can determine if a conflict exists and emergency response is required.

For more information on RR committee activities, visit us at [www.ntdpc.com](http://www.ntdpc.com).





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## Public Policy Update

Legislative discussions centered upon recent revisions in California and New Mexico and information on other state law changes was provided for review.

As of Jan 1, 2006, SB 140 of CA Code 4216 was revised to allow vacuum excavation or even utilization of power-operated equipment (e.g. backhoes!!) to determine the exact location of underground facilities. A written mutual agreement with the owner / operator is required, however. AT&T is conducting tests to determine the pressure limits of air and water knives (these are used in the vacuum excavation process to loosen the soil) before damage is suffered on various types of facilities. Test results are expected in late 3Q and will be shared with the council.

In addition, updates were provided for the ongoing legislative initiatives in North Carolina and Texas. Additionally, legislative changes from Florida, Louisiana, Maryland and Tennessee are expected or have been realized; these will be reviewed and reported on at our next meeting.

Please inform the NTDPCC of any new legislation being proposed in your state. Telecom needs to be represented in local meetings where changes are considered and drafts are prepared; NTDPCC members are willing to serve in this role.

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## 811 Summit

The NTDPCC, in collaboration with its associate member organization OCSI (One-Call Systems International), sponsored a meeting between Telecom representatives and various One-Call center Executive Directors (EDs). This "811 Summit" brought together two stakeholder groups who are vital to the successful implementation of 811. As the FCC mandated in its "DIG Order", CC Docket No. 92-105 - SIXTH REPORT AND ORDER (Adopted: March 10, 2005 Released: March 14, 2005), 811 must be available for use by April 13, 2007 (this is Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> by the way!).

The purpose of the Summit was to educate each group on operational issues that each is facing with regard to implementation of the 811 three digit dialing. The facilitator for the meeting between the two stakeholder groups, both of which are contributors to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), was Bob Kipp, CGA President. Mr. Kipp was asked to lead the meeting and assisted the participants in providing historical background, keeping the groups focused and identifying issues. Presentations were made by both Telecom and One-Call center representatives, as well as a representative from Vonage to discuss VoIP issues for 811. The Telecom presentation focused on the background of the FCC order, including the NANC (North American Numbering Council) recommendation, an 811 service description and key steps required to implement. The OCSI presentation provided background and purpose for the One-Call system as well as a guide to the organizational structure of most One-Call Centers.

In addition, Khrysanne Kerr of Celeritas Technologies, the 811 Project Manager subcontracted to the CGA, is responsible for managing the CGA's 811 national awareness campaign, informed the Summit attendees on the status and direction of the campaign. This presentation included the firm selected by the CGA, suggested ideas, sample public service ads and a 'path forward' plan for marketing the use of 811. One development of note is the creation of a website devoted to the marketing campaign, [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com). At the website, viewers can learn 'About 811', request 'Logo and Artwork' for individual company advertising and labeling efforts, review frequently asked questions and contact the 811 Project Manager for more information or with specific questions or issues. Kerr can be contacted at 330-792-9942 or [kerr@celeritas.com](mailto:kerr@celeritas.com).

The results from the meeting were positive. Both industries learned valuable perspectives from each other, including the fact that 811 is different from other 'N11' services. While both industries recognize the value of implementing 811 as a damage prevention tool; both also recognize that the service is mandated by the FCC. Both industries agree that they must work together to effectively implement 811. Issues addressed included contact information for Telecoms, handling of mis-dialed or mis-directed calls, cost recovery and next steps. At the conclusion of the Summit and at the request of several attendees, Telecom representatives and the OCSI co-chairs committed to the development of a joint 811 presentation that could be shared with One-Call Center Boards of Directors, Regulatory, Product and Executive personnel at the Telecoms, and with the public.

We wish to thank our colleagues and partners at OCSI for their contributions and willingness to participate in this effort.