

Planning & Design Task Team

**Planning & Design
Task Team Report**

June 30, 1999

Safe and Livable Communities

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The Challenge

- Legislation or one-call practices can hamper planning & design
- Existing facility info should be obtained early in the process
- Design interface is essential

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The Goal

- Identify P&D practices that prevent damage to buried facilities.
- Identify design practices used during & after excavation to avoid existing facilities.
- Identify the best P&D practices in support of damage prevention.

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Team Composition 16 Members

- Telecommunications
- Pipeline Operators
- Contractors
- State Government
- Locators
- Electric Providers
- Federal Government
- Railroads

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Best Practices

- Planning
 - Plats include underground facility easements.
 - Designers obtain info about underground facilities.
 - Designers indicate existing facilities on drawings.

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Best Practices, cont.

- Design
 - Project & facility owners coordinate with each other.
 - Permanent markers & material identify facilities.
 - Facility installation designers follow all Federal, state & local codes, guidelines & other facility owner standards.

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Best Practices, cont.

- Bid/Construction
 - Qualified contractors excavate near underground facilities.
 - Bids are accepted only from contractors that attend the pre-bid conference.
 - Designer participates in pre-bid process & interfaces with contractor throughout construction.
 - As-built info is recorded to aid future excavations.

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Lessons Learned

- Damage prevention legislation & one-call system practices should facilitate providing designers with info about facility owners located in or near excavation areas.
- Subsurface Utility Engineering is a design tool & is an example of methods that may be used to collect planning & design info.

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Path Forward

- Increased:
 - Number of design requests;
 - Number of states/one-call systems that accept design locates;
 - Number of utility coordination/damage prevention councils;
 - Use of permanent markers & color-coded facilities and
 - Number of projects utilizing an underground facility survey process or SUE.

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Path Forward, cont.

- Reduction in:
 - Incidents related to inadequate clearance between facilities, and
 - Project delays caused by utility relocations.
- **Planning & design must be recognized as an integral part of damage prevention and the one-call process.**

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