

Excavation Practices  
Task Team Report  
June 30, 1999

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## Excavation Task Team

# The Challenge

- To identify & describe preventative & safe practices for the construction & maintenance of, and around, underground facilities to prevent damages

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## Excavation Task Team

# The Goal

- To encourage partnerships between the facility owners, excavators, one-call centers, locators & project restoration/completion, with the goal of fostering safe excavation practices

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## Excavation Task Team

# Team Composition - 20 Members

- Excavators
- Pipeline Operators
- Contractors
- Cable Television
- Railroads
- State Governments
- Federal Government
- Telecommunications
- One Call Centers

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## Excavation Task Team

# Best Practices

28 Best Practices in 4 main categories:

- Project Preparation
- On-Site Preparation/Ground Breaking
- Ongoing Excavation
- Project Completion

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# Project Preparation

- One-Call Facility Requests
- White Lining
- Locate Reference Numbers
- Pre-excavation Meeting

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# Project Preparation

- Facility Relocations
- Separate Location Requests
- One-Call Access (24x7)
- Positive Response

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# On-Site Preparation/Ground Breaking

- Facility Owner Failure to Respond
- Locate Verification
- Excavator Documentation
- Work Site Review with Company Personnel

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# On-Site Preparation/Ground Breaking

- One-Call Reference Number at Excavation Site
- Contact Names & Numbers
- Facility Avoidance

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# Ongoing Excavation

- Federal & State Regulations
- Marking Preservation
- Excavation Observer
- Excavation Tolerance Zone
- Mis-marked Facilities

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# Ongoing Excavation, cont.

- Exposed Facility Protection
- Locate Request Updates
- Facility Damage Notification
- Notification of Emergency Personnel
- Emergency Excavation
- Backfilling

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# Project Completion

- As-Built Documentation

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# Lessons Learned

- Everyone involved with excavation can agree on the best way to excavate around underground facilities to achieve:
  - Safe working conditions for employees;
  - Protection of underground facility integrity; and
  - Effective documentation & notification procedures.

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# Lessons Learned, cont.

- Implementation of Best Practices by any individual, company, or other excavating organization would greatly reduce:
  - Damages to underground facilities;
  - Injuries to excavating personnel;
  - Injuries to the public at large; and
  - Damage to private & public property.

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## Excavation Task Team

# Path Forward

- Continue to meet as a team to review, update, or add Best Practices

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