

Training and Education Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. | Zoom Meeting

Voting Members: Mitch Burghlea, Melanie Lewis, Kevin Hennessy, Andy Crocker, Connor Toney, and Megan Moore

Non-Voting Members: Kitty O'Keefe and Josh Thomas.

1. Announcements and Introductions

- a. Mitch called the meeting to order at 10am and introductions were made. Declared a quorum
- b. Motion from Melanie to approve the minutes from November 6, 2023, and 2nd by Megan. Kitty to post on website.
- c. Chair – Mitch welcomed members

2. Old Business

3. New Business

- a. Discuss contract and options for locator training classes in 2025. (See Josh's ppt attached)
 - Josh opened the meeting with a general overview of our Locator Training Classes with UTA in 2024. We had 107 participants in 2024. \$166.74 per person was OUNCs cost.
 - Mitch shared with members his thoughts on why the OUNC continues to support these classes to the public. Big consideration is fiber installs and providing small cities, counties and communities education that they might not otherwise get.
 - Kevin asked about surveying past attendees. He is happy to provide insight on future questionnaires.
 - Andy likes the virtual locator training we offer and receive CEU credit.
 - Josh suggested resources/links to add to our website.
 - Josh will check with WA811 where their funding comes from, attendance and frequency of classes and do they survey their attendees.
 - Kitty to follow up with past surveys.
- b. Discuss change in model for Excavator Safety Training classes in 2025.
 - Josh shared his classes in 2024. Well over 1,000 trained
 - He recommends moving away from classes we schedule that coincide with the board meetings.
 - Offer to UCCs, partners and requested invitations
 - Upcoming classes in 2025 – see slide attached for dates.
- c. Update on creation of CGAs Learning Management System/training modules, presented by Kevin Hennessy. (See Kevin's ppt attached for reference)
 - Kevin shared with members that CGA worked with stakeholders representing Excavators, Locators, Facility Owners, 811 Centers, along with OSHA, PHMSA, and NAPSRS

- Objective: Reduce damage to underground utilities through excavator education.
- Project Focus: Explore the development and implementation of educational curriculum for professional excavators to address worker safety, public safety and pipeline safety.
- Industry survey was sent out. Full details on page 6.
- CGAs Phased Rollout: Phase 1 is out. Phase 2, not yet and target date TBD. Full details on page 9.
- Kevin shared we should consider getting this on other stakeholders' website such as Landscapers Association. Suggested: permitting offices, safety companies, new employees
- Kevin hopes we can work with our CCB folks and get this program so attendees receive CEUs. Kitty can help Kevin with this.
- Melanie has taken many of these courses and will provide feedback to CGA.
- Connor likes this program for new hires and likes how it's set up and easy to follow. He's getting positive feedback from his employees. Would like to see this as a mandatory training.

- d. Update Excavation Safety 101 online class (due to rule changes) or hold for LMS and focus on creation of Oregon module?
- Once rules are in place, we can look at how we want to make the changes to our online class.

3. For the Good of the Order

- Josh provided a quick update on our 7 rule changes.
- Effective date for these changes has been postponed to the start of Safe Digging Month in April
- Need a full board member vote on Jan.16th.

5. Next Meeting – tbd

Voting members: Mitch Burghlelea, Melanie Lewis, Kevin Hennessy, Alba Vogland, Connor Toney, and Megan Moore

Non-voting members: Kitty O'Keefe and Josh Thomas

Motion to adjourn at 11:21pm

Minutes submitted by Kitty O'Keefe 1.13.25

Training and Education Committee

January 8, 2025



Locator Training Classes

Current status:

- Classes with Bob Nighswonger, Utility Training Academy
 - 107 attendees in 2024, \$166.75 per person cost to OUNC
- Temporary contract approved for continuity
 - Continuing with in person classes in 2025
 - Discontinuing virtual classes, but considering online prerequisite for in-person classes to maximize focus on equipment familiarity and field training
- Need competitive bid process, visiting with other providers: Frontier Precision, Staking University, other trainers for comparison



Locator Training Classes

Radiodetection/Frontier Precision:

- Met to discuss free class/paid options
 - 1.5-hour class plus field (free) vs. full day version (paid)
- Attended class in Eugene with Williams Pipeline, branded but not sales oriented
- Clean slide deck, intuitive, interactive, engaged attendees – no handouts
- Situational considerations, practical tips and tricks (Gatorade with ground rods, reverse locating, bluetooth), focus on accuracy



Locator Training Classes

- Staking University
 - Have used previously, WA works with them
 - Cost for 2-Day class is \$850 per person, certification
- UTTO, Locate Management Institute, Center Line Resource
- Local contacts?

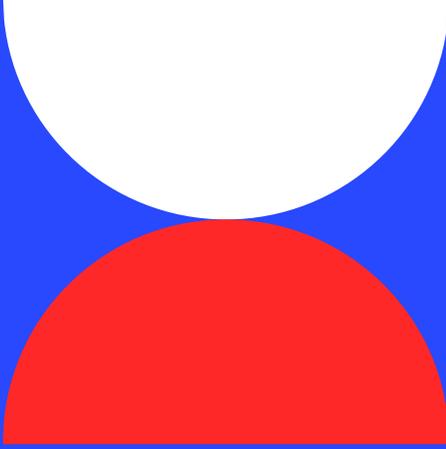
The National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) Locator Training Standards and Practices represent an accepted model within the locate industry.



Locator Training Classes

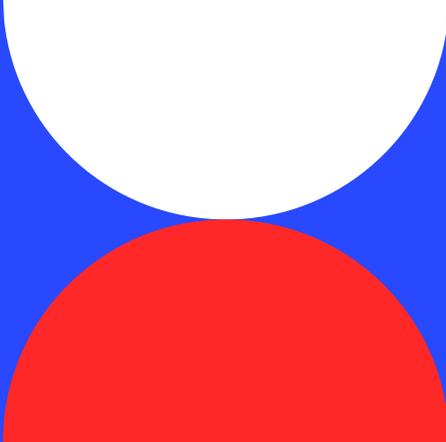
- Considerations:
 - Commitment to training long term, sponsors?
 - Reduction in participants, ideas for better promotion
 - Focus on equipment/field? Online classes? Hybrid?
 - Broadband investments, increased need for specialized training?
- Decisions for committee/board:
 - Modified status quo or new provider? Combination?
 - Who to invite to bid?
 - Recommend increasing contract thresholds





Excavator Safety Classes

- Previous model not proving effective, problematic for attendance and timing
 - New approach is seeing success with in-person training classes and presentations
 - Going to them vs having them come to us
 - Well over 1,000 trained in 2024
 - Classes with CCB, Park and Play NW, Landscape contractors
 - Recommend ceasing board meeting tandem classes unless there is a demand from the local UCC or stakeholders
- 

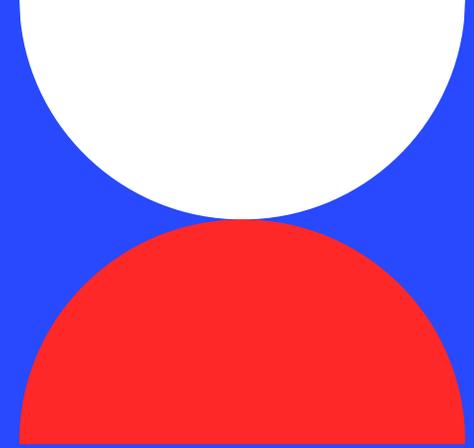


Excavator Safety Classes

Upcoming:

- January 27 CCB Laws, Rules, and Business Practices
 - January 28 Mid-Oregon Construction Safety Summit
 - February 25 CCB Training
 - March 3-6 Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference (GOSH)
 - April 30 CCB Training
 - May 13-15 AWWA/PNCWA Cascade to Coast Short School for Water and Wastewater Operators
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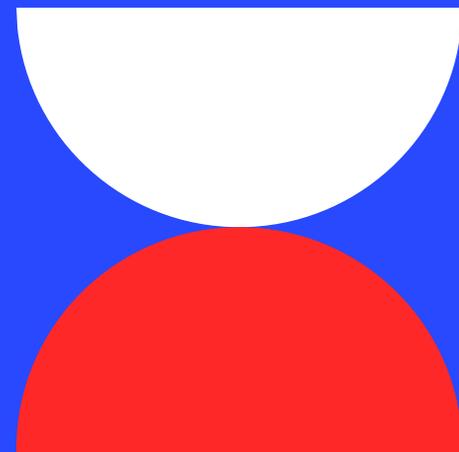
New Training Modules, Learning Management System



- Update from Kevin Hennessy about ongoing process to create national resources for excavation safety training online.
 - Involvement of CGA and stakeholders
 - Modules completed and in process
 - Tracking progress and completion
- Need to update Excavation Safety 101 class on OUNC website
 - Proceed with edits/reshoots/updates?
 - Hold off and utilize CGA program in tandem with an Oregon-specific module?



Thank you





Creating a Decluttered and Dynamic Online Learning Experience for Excavators

Update - JANUARY 8, 2025

Oregon Public Utility Commission - Kevin Hennessy



PROJECT BACKGROUND

ORIGIN

— CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH U.S. DOT PHMSA WITH
CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO
NAPSR RESOLUTION.



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**





PROCESS

**GUIDED BY AN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MADE UP OF INDUSTRY
STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTING:**

- Excavators
- Locators
- Facility Owners/Operators
- Regulators (OSHA, PHMSA, NAPSR)
- 811 Centers

PROJECT FOCUS

- **Objective:** Reduce damage to underground utilities through excavator education.
- **Description:** Explore the development and implementation of educational curriculum for professional excavators to address worker safety, public safety and pipeline safety.



Research & Findings

Understand the **gaps** that exist in current excavator education and **how educational programs targeting excavators can be most effective** in reducing damage to underground facilities.

INDUSTRY SURVEY

Stakeholders have identified **consistent gaps in existing excavator education** and how current programs/training can be made more effective.

- **Inconsistencies** exist across states in tools/content available
- Need for **actionable** guidance for excavators and less reliance on standards/regulation
- Desire for development and use of **scenario-based** training and education
- Need to include **consequences** of damaging facilities within the curriculum (both from a safety perspective as well as an enforcement perspective)
- Increase focus on **field implementation** such as proper hand digging in tolerance zone
- Excavators have a limited **understanding of state law**
- **Effective use** of the one call process/811
- Use of messaging/**language that is well understood** by excavators (not damage prevention industry “jargon”)

CURRENT ACCESS

Almost all one call centers surveyed indicated they provide safe digging education to excavators with:

95%

95% indicating that education is part of their center's mission

43%

43% indicating that state law designates education as part of their purpose

In addition to in-person, virtual, and online learning:

54%

54% of one call centers have invested in a Learning Management System (LMS)

CURRENT ACCESS

Almost all one call centers indicated that other organizations within their state(s) provide excavator education focused on reducing damage, with **gas/pipeline companies making up the greatest percentage.**

However, there is NOT consistent:

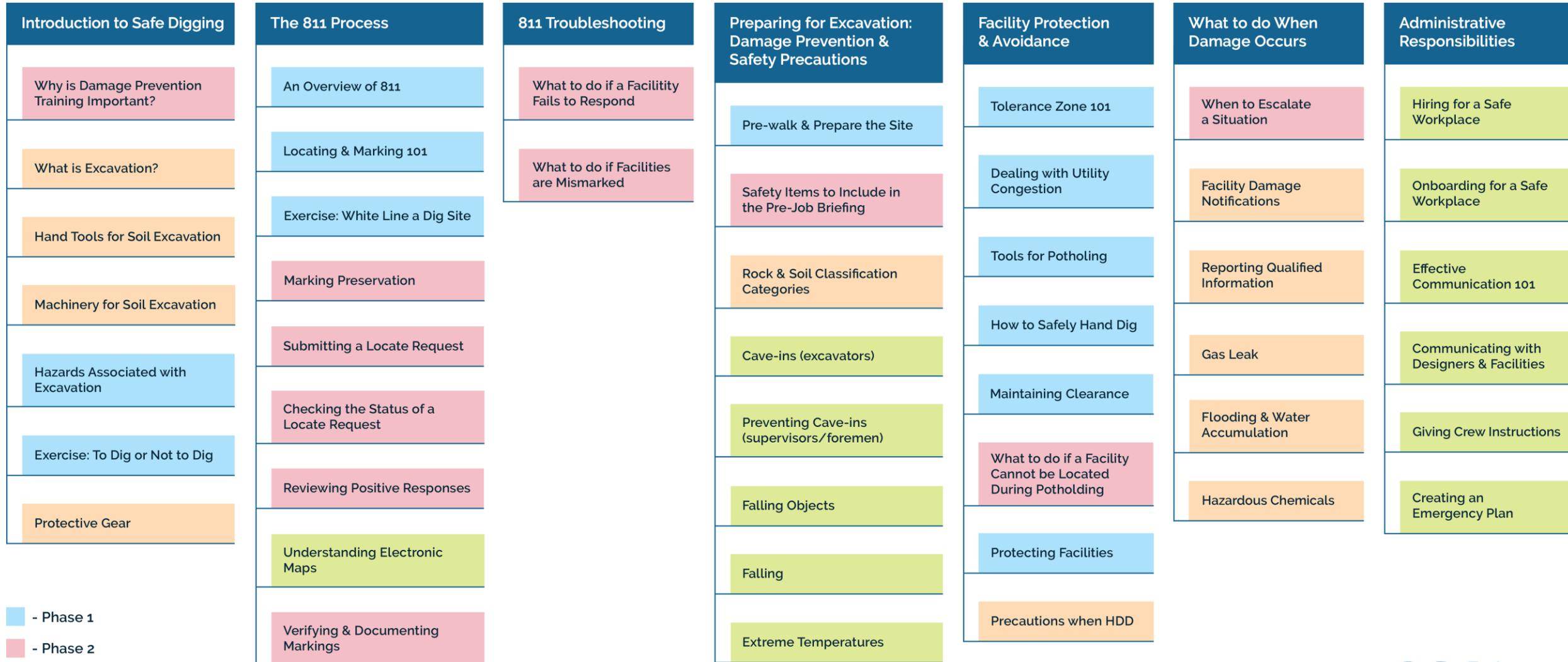
Availability

**Curriculum
Objectives**

Format

Effectiveness

PHASED ROLLOUT



- - Phase 1
- - Phase 2
- - Phase 3
- - Phase 4

Inspections and Investigations by Root Issue for 2024

Coded by Root Issue as of 1/8/25

	Root Issue	Reports	2024 % of Total
1	No notification made to One Call Center/811	15	25.00%
2	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)	13	21.67%
3	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks	10	16.67%
4	Facility not marked due to no response from operator/contract locator	7	11.67%
5	Excavator provided incorrect notification information	4	6.67%
6	Excavator dug after valid ticket expired	3	5.00%
7	Excavator dug before valid start date/time	3	5.00%
8	Marks faded, lost or not maintained	2	3.33%
9	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket	1	1.67%
10	Excavator failed to shore excavation/support facilities	1	1.67%
11	Facility marked inaccurately due to incorrect facility record/map	1	1.67%
12	Deteriorated facility	0	0.00%
13	Facility marked inaccurately due to abandoned facility	0	0.00%
14	Facility marked inaccurately due to locator error	0	0.00%
15	Facility marked inaccurately due to tracer wire issue	0	0.00%
16	Facility not marked due to abandoned facility	0	0.00%
17	Facility not marked due to incorrect facility record/map	0	0.00%
18	Facility not marked due to locator error	0	0.00%
19	Facility not marked due to tracer wire issue	0	0.00%
20	Facility not marked due to unlocatable facility	0	0.00%
21	Improper backfilling	0	0.00%
22	Improper excavation practice not listed elsewhere	0	0.00%
23	One Call Center error	0	0.00%
24	Previous damage	0	0.00%
25	Site marked but incomplete at damage location	0	0.00%
	Total	60	100.00%

Legend

- Excavation Practices
- Invalid Use of Request by Excavator
- Locating Practices
- Miscellaneous
- No Locate Request

Chart does not include "unknown" values

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