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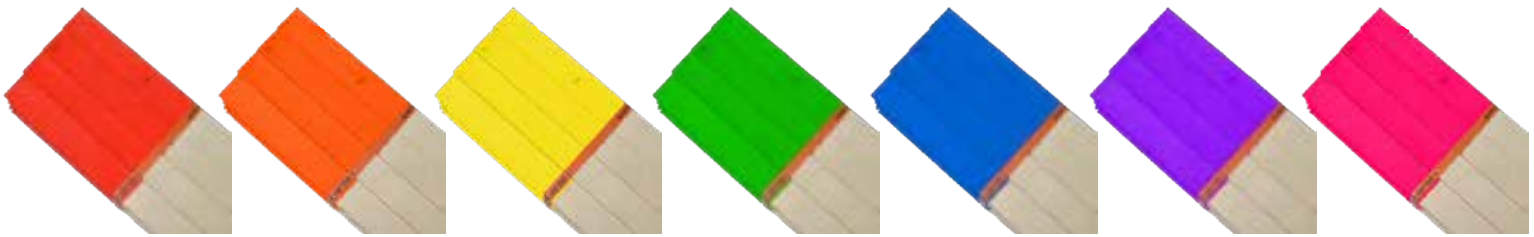

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Message from the president of CAPULC

JAMIE ANDERSEN



As we reflect on another remarkable year, it is with great honor and gratitude that I address you in this issue of CAPULC's *Locator* magazine. Each year, this magazine is a captivating compilation of articles, stories, and notices, skillfully curated into a true work of art that we are very proud of. It helps further exemplify that this association is not just a network, but a place where passion, dedication, and shared values come together to drive meaningful change and nurture the success of our organization.

In the past couple of years, we have faced challenges but also tremendous achievements. From the development of CAPULC's National Underground Facility Locating and Marking Standard, along with strengthening our connections both within and outside our industry, it's clear that our collective efforts are making a lasting impact and elevating our profession. We've proven that when we work together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

But even as we celebrate these accomplishments, we recognize that there's still much work to be done. Our association is committed to continuing this momentum, deepening our engagement, and providing more opportunities for professional development, networking, and advocacy. We are now entering an exciting phase of growth, with plans to further enhance our offerings and create even greater value for each member. But none of this is possible without the contributions and feedback of each one of you. Your voices are essential in shaping the future of this association and commitment to fostering an environment where members can collaborate, share knowledge, and grow both personally and professionally.

I encourage each of you to take full advantage of the resources available through our association, attend our events, engage with fellow members, share your insights, participate in our committees, and let your voice be heard. Together, we can accomplish even more in the coming year, so let's continue to support one another, inspire growth, and work toward even greater achievements.

With appreciation,
Jamie Andersen ●

Message du président

JAMIE ANDERSEN

Alors que nous réfléchissons à une autre année remarquable, c'est avec beaucoup d'honneur et de gratitude que je m'adresse à vous dans ce numéro du magazine *Locator* de CAPULC. Chaque année, ce magazine est une compilation captivante d'articles, d'histoires et d'avis, habilement organisée en une véritable œuvre d'art dont nous sommes très fiers. Ça aide à illustrer davantage le fait que cette association n'est pas seulement un réseau, mais un lieu où la passion, le dévouement et les valeurs partagées se réunissent pour susciter un changement significatif et favoriser le succès de notre organisation.

Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons été confrontés à des défis mais aussi à d'énormes réalisations. Du développement de la Norme Nationale de Localisation et de Marquage des Installations Souterraines de CAPULC au renforcement de nos liens au sein et à l'extérieur de notre industrie, il est clair que nos efforts collectifs ont un impact durable et élèvent notre profession. Nous avons prouvé que quand nous travaillons ensemble, il n'y a aucune limite à ce que nous pouvons réaliser.

Mais même si nous célébrons ces réalisations, nous reconnaissons qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire. Notre association s'engage à poursuivre sur cette lancée, à approfondir son engagement et à offrir davantage d'opportunités de développement professionnel, de réseautage et de plaidoyer. Nous entrons maintenant dans une phase de croissance passionnante, avec des plans pour améliorer davantage nos offres et créer encore plus de valeur pour chaque membre. Mais rien de tout ça n'est possible sans les contributions et commentaires de chacun d'entre vous. Vos voix sont essentielles pour façonner l'avenir de cette association et votre engagement à favoriser un environnement où les membres peuvent collaborer, partager leurs connaissances et se développer à la fois personnellement et professionnellement.

J'encourage chacun d'entre vous à profiter pleinement des ressources disponibles via notre association, assister à nos événements, dialoguer avec les autres membres, partager vos idées, participer à nos comités et faire entendre votre voix. Ensemble, nous pouvons accomplir encore plus au cours de l'année à venir, alors continuons à nous soutenir les uns les autres, à inspirer la croissance et à travailler à des réalisations encore plus grandes.

Avec reconnaissance,

Jamie Andersen ●

WHO WE ARE



As a national association, the Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) is proudly committed to connecting skilled professionals from across our nation. By fostering collaboration and engaging knowledgeable, experienced leaders from every region of Canada, CAPULC plays a vital role bringing together essential industry stakeholders dedicated to safeguarding Canada's critical underground infrastructure.

Established in Alberta in 2002, CAPULC has evolved into a powerful national association, cultivating a strong membership that spans coast to coast and amplifying the collective voice of underground facility locators. Our diverse membership includes underground facility locators, education and training providers, professional associations, facility owners, equipment manufacturers and distributors, technology and software developers, suppliers, ground disturbance professionals, and other important industry stakeholders. Together, they provide invaluable expertise and understanding to safeguard Canada's extensive and essential underground infrastructure.

From the Pacific to the Atlantic, and from the North to the South, CAPULC members are united by a shared commitment to advancing underground facility locating and elevating damage prevention as a national priority.

In 2023, our industry celebrated a significant milestone with the creation of the CAPULC National Underground Facility Locating

and Marking Standard. This landmark achievement showcases the exceptional talent and determination of our invaluable members, exemplifying the collective strength and influence of a national association. The Standard establishes a new benchmark for safety, consistency, and excellence in underground facility locating, reinforcing our unwavering focus on damage prevention.

At the core of CAPULC's identity is collaboration. By partnering with regional Common Ground Alliances, contributing to key industry conferences, and participating on influential committees and associations, we work to advance significant industry goals.

We recognize the outstanding role of our sponsors, whose generous support powers the remarkable endeavors and achievements of our association. Together, we are building a future where we continue serving as a powerful voice for the underground facility locating profession. We are inspired by the progress we've made together and are excited about the groundbreaking work that lies ahead.

CAPULC's strength is in the invaluable contributions of our members, who dedicate their time and expertise not only to CAPULC committees and initiatives but also to many other transformative industry efforts. Whether large corporations, small businesses, or individual professionals, we are proud of the important achievements of our valued members and celebrate their outstanding innovation, resilience, and dedication. CAPULC is more than an association; we are a community of professionals united in the pursuit of excellence, bringing integrity to the professional impact of underground facility locating.

From coast to coast, we are shaping a future where damage to underground infrastructure is no longer dangerously daily occurrence, but a legacy of prevention and progress.

We are CAPULC. We invite you to join us on the critical journey of damage prevention. ●

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Introducing the CAPULC Board of Directors

Distinctly CAPULC: Uniquely Driven, United in Purpose

It is with immense respect and admiration that I introduce the exceptional individuals who make up our CAPULC Board of Directors. Each member brings unique expertise, diverse perspectives, and an unwavering dedication to advancing every aspect of the underground facility locating industry. Their collective passion for damage prevention fosters outstanding leadership and collaboration, enhancing the value and reputation of underground facility locating across Canada.

Representing a wealth of knowledge and experience from various corners of the industry from coast to coast, this group is united by a shared commitment to safeguarding our communities and upholding the highest standards in the underground facility locating field.

This year, we asked our Board members two simple yet revealing questions. Their answers showcase not only their individual insights and personalities but also their unified dedication to advancing the field of underground facility locating and safeguarding Canada's critical underground infrastructure.

I am deeply grateful for the support, leadership, and passion our Board members bring to CAPULC. It is truly a privilege to work alongside such remarkable individuals.

With warmest regards,

Tracey, Administrative Coordinator, CAPULC

THIS YEAR, CAPULC BOARD MEMBERS WERE ASKED THESE TWO SIMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?
2. What is your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

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**PRESIDENT: JAMIE ANDERSEN –
ALBERTA/BRITISH COLUMBIA/SASKATCHEWAN**

Co-owner First Alert Locating Ltd.

Jamie is one of the few founding members of CAPULC and has been an active member since its inception. She has extensive experience on the Board of Directors and acknowledges that stepping in as President of CAPULC has been a lot of work. She's very dedicated to the association's success and believes that her participation will contribute to helping individuals identify with the significance, future promise, and opportunities that this association and industry can offer. She is passionate about steps toward attaining a locating industry designation and making sure CAPULC has developed an excellent foundation to support it. Representing CAPULC, Jamie serves as a Board member with the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA). Also, through its merger she represents Alberta Common Ground Alliance (ABCGA) by sitting as an "At Large" Member of the Utility Safety Partners Board of Directors and feels that this is her opportunity to contribute.

Jamie has been a co-owner of First Alert Locating Ltd, a well-established line locating company since 2000. She is currently in the main office in Grande Prairie, Alberta, however they also have a branch office in Whitecourt, and services that span British Columbia to Saskatchewan. Jamie has extensive experience with locator field knowledge, ground disturbance consulting, safety management and CEO responsibilities. She is honoured to bring her business knowledge and experience to CAPULC.

Jamie's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

In Jamie's freezer, she has a Russian bottle of Vodka from one of her amazing clients. Jamie shared, "It's only brought out for special occasions."

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Jamie has spent most of her time this year working closely with the Alternate Locator Service Provider application process. Her company, First Alert Locating, is one of only 14 companies that have completed the process. Jamie shared, "While it is still in its infancy, and her company only covers a particular area, she looks forward to the ALP's future growth and development!"



VICE-PRESIDENT: GARY MASON – ALBERTA

Underground Damage Prevention Specialist at LineStar Utility Supply Inc.

As well as serving as Vice-President with CAPULC, Gary has been a long-standing member of two of CAPULC's busy committees, the Marketing Committee and the Education Committee. Gary has served on the ABCGA as Board Director representing Equipment/Material/Services Supply and he is currently a part of the Marketing Committee with the USP. His background is specialized in the sale of utility locators and damage prevention equipment for LineStar Utility Supply for the Alberta region.

Gary's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

In Gary's fridge, you'll find Birch Syrup from Whitehorse.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Gary is extremely proud to advance the latest cutting-edge technology in locators, GPRs and other mapping.



TREASURER: MATT ETHERINGTON – ALBERTA

EM Utility Locating

Matt has been locating for 15 years working in all facets of the industry. There is very little that Matt hasn't done over the years in the industry from contract locating, private commercial, pipeline, and industrial locating, locator and excavator education, locate auditing, concrete scanning and GPR, surveying, experimental technologies, damage investigations, and even utility installations.

This wide range of expertise puts him in a unique position to be one of the industry's most knowledgeable. He was recently awarded the inaugural Locator of the Year for the province of Alberta, recognizing his dedication to the industry and for setting the bar for industry standards.

Matt is an open book with this information and is always willing to help others learn to better the industry. If anyone ever has any questions, Matt is always available to take the time to answer them or help find the answer.

Matt's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

Matt initially struggled with this question, admitting, "Our fridge is pretty normal." However, after some thought, he revealed that one shelf on his fridge door is dedicated entirely to craft hot sauces.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Matt's goal is to focus on individual locators and address locating challenges on a province-by-province basis. He aims to elevate the association's recognition through CAPULC-driven programs and boards while ensuring that CAPULC maintains its focus on the locators it serves. Matt believes locators are often overlooked, undervalued, and excluded from industry discussions. Matt is determined to change that.



DIRECTOR/INTERIM SECRETARY: COREY BAKER – ALBERTA

Coordinator of the Underground Locate Department – Enmax

Corey Baker is the Coordinator of the Underground Locate department at Enmax in Calgary, AB. Corey obtained his Power Systems Electrician ticket while working for Manitoba Hydro prior to joining Enmax in 2014. Corey serves on the USP's Operations Advisory Committee and is also sitting member on its Best Practice Committee. He is an active member of the Calgary Locate Consortium and provides orientation for the new ALP program. Corey is invested in damage prevention, working closely with excavators, locators and other utility members within the City of Calgary on a daily basis.

Corey's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

Corey regularly has pickled eggs in his fridge.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

For the upcoming year, Corey plans to take a deeper dive into damage prevention, becoming more involved in best practices and awareness.



DIRECTOR: TONY BRUNETTE – MANITOBA/ONTARIO/NUNAVUT

Structure Scan Inc.

Tony Brunette is the President and Owner of Structure Scan Inc., a full-service Damage Prevention company. Having worked in the industry since 1999, Tony is dedicated to the safety of the people who work on construction sites by providing the essential sub-surface information required by engineers and construction managers.

As an active participant in North America's damage prevention cause, he takes digging dangers seriously. Costly mistakes on construction and excavation projects are preventable through skilled, non-destructive testing and analysis.

Tony is a member of the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association (CSDA) GPR Imaging Certification program, and he chairs Locator Training/Certification committee for the Manitoba Common Ground Alliance (MCGA). As a member of the industry associations throughout Canada and the United States, Tony is committed to providing the best damage prevention solutions possible.

Tony's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

Tony keeps a can of inverted marking paint in his fridge. Being a distributor of inverted marking paint that doesn't freeze, he keeps it there for skeptical customers.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Tony's goals for this year are to:

1. Have all their locators independently certified in addition to their in-house training,
2. Have all their Tech's achieve competency in both locating and GPR, and
3. Provide a Geo-referenced deliverable for all their locates.



DIRECTOR: RICHARD LAMONTAGNE – SASKATCHEWAN/MANITOBA/NORTH DAKOTA

Absolute Locating Ltd.

Richard, his wife Lisa, and their family have owned and operated Absolute Locating Ltd. since 2002. With their main office in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, they have crews based throughout southern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and recently expanded into North Dakota. Richard has been active in the damage prevention industry for over 20 years. He has watched the evolution of the damage prevention industry in the oil & gas sector over the years, witnessing the vital role that innovation and technology have played in that development. Richard brings extensive experience to CAPULC's Board of Directors, serving many years on the Best Practices Committee for the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA) and recently joining the Board of Directors for Saskatchewan First Call.

Richard's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

At first, this was tricky for Richard. However, after stating there's "Nothing exciting here," he asked, "Maybe a bottle of Adictivo Anejo or Don Julio Anejo tequila in the freezer for special occasions is unique?"

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Joining the Saskatchewan First Call Board of Directors has allowed Richard to join a great group of individuals from diverse backgrounds that are passionate about damage prevention in our industry. He feels that bringing a field level perspective to the team will help broaden the pool of experience and might identify opportunities for improvement that will benefit the entire dig community in Saskatchewan.



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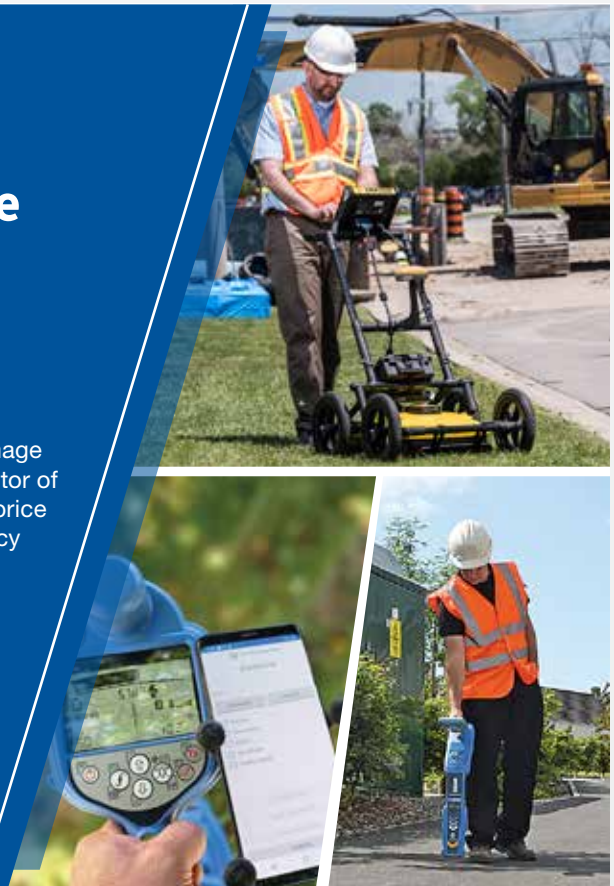
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DIRECTOR: DONALD RICHARD – NEW BRUNSWICK

Vice-President – Locate Management Institute

Donald develops and implements education and training for the Locating and Ground Disturbance industries.

He collaborates with subject matter experts, locators, facility owners and IT professionals to build and deliver education, training, and assessment of Locators. Donald continues to be instrumental in the development of Locator competencies, standards, education and training courses, and assessment and certification programs in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

He played a key role in the development of, and continues to maintain, the Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Field Task Competency Manual endorsed by CAPULC.

More recently, as chair of CAPULC's Education and Standards sub-committee for a Locating and Marking Standard, Donald led the committee that worked with Jiva Consulting in the development of the Underground Facility Locating and Marking Standard – Version 1.0.

He is active on and serves in various capacities within industry associations:

- Atlantic Canada Common Ground Alliance (ATLCGA) – Executive Board Member (Treasurer) and member of the Best Practices Committee
- Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) – Chair of Education and Standards Committee
- Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) – Past-Chair and current member of the Best Practices Committee

Donald is the driving force behind Canadian Certified Locator, provides educational services to the Certified Locator programs in the Australia (CERTLOC Global) and New Zealand (beforeUdig Certified Locator), and assists and supports the Certified Locator program in the USA (American Certified Locator).

Donald's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

In Atlantic Canada, Donald's fridge always contains home-cured salmon.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Donald's goals for this year are to continue to promote and support CAPULC's UFL competency cycle and the Locating and Marking Standard, educate new and existing public and private clients, and garner a national champion for the certification of locators.



DIRECTOR: BRAD ARMSTRONG – ALBERTA/SASKATCHEWAN/WESTERN CANADA

Walleye Locating Ltd.

Brad brings over 20 years of line locating and ground disturbance experience to CAPULC. He has watched the damage prevention industry evolve dramatically throughout his career and is proud to be a part of an association that advocates for higher standards in the line locating and damage prevention industry. In addition to the Board, Brad is active in CAPULC's Education and Standards Committee.

Brad is the owner of Walleye Locating Ltd., which he founded with his significant other in Wainwright Alberta. Walleye Locating offers a multitude of Line Locating, Ground Disturbance Supervision, and Land Administration Services in many sectors. In addition to Wainwright and Eastern Alberta, Brad's company is also based in Blackfalds in the West/Central area of the province. Walleye is proud of its diverse and in-depth experience in many different applications of line locating and damage prevention, from oil & gas to environmental to residential and city-based applications.

Brad's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

Reflecting his deep passion for fishing, Brad's freezer is always stocked with frozen pike roe (egg) sacks for white fish fishing.

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

In the upcoming year, Brad's goal is to drive greater awareness of tracer wire. He is committed to emphasizing its significance, providing maintenance tips, and sharing strategies for preserving its accessibility and integrity.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR: TRACEY PALUCK – CANADA-WIDE

Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC)

Tracey has been CAPULC's Administrative Coordinator for nearly three years. After putting the board members through creative introduction features like "Three Truths and a Lie" in The Locator 2023 and "Q&A with the CAPULC Board of Directors" in The Locator 2024, the esteemed board decided it was her turn to join the spotlight. Though not a board member, they insisted that as "the glue holding it all together," her inclusion in this year's introduction was well-deserved. Tracey extends a heartfelt thank-you to CAPULC's incredible board members for their thoughtful gesture!

With a dedication to excellence and a strong work ethic, Tracey consistently demonstrates her commitment to achieving outstanding results in every role she assumes. Known for her collaborative approach and attention to detail, she brings a blend of professionalism and engagement to every project she pursues. Her ability to adapt to obstacles and find innovative solutions has earned her the respect of colleagues and clientele alike. Whether leading a team or working independently, she approaches each task with integrity and a focus on achieving exceptional results. Tracey's resourceful mindset ensures that even the most complex challenges are met with creativity and confidence, resulting in the continued success of CAPULC's industry-leading initiatives.

Tracey's replies:

1. What's something in your fridge/freezer that no one else would have?

Tracey has suet blocks in her fridge. She explained, "Suet is a type of bird food that attracts a variety of wild birds and songbirds, like chickadees and jays. It provides them with essential calories and is especially helpful during the winter months."

2. What's your industry achievement for the year and/or your goal for this upcoming year?

Tracey's focus this year has been on promoting CAPULC's vision of fostering excellence in the underground facility locating industry across Canada. Her goal is to further establish CAPULC's role as the national association for underground facility locating by building stronger collaborations with provincial partners and delivering greater value, enhanced benefits, and expanded resources to CAPULC members from coast to coast. She remains dedicated to advancing the efforts of this association and strengthening connections across Canada. ●



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Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to these outstanding CAPULC Sponsors who propel our mission forward with their commitment, vision, and leadership. Their steadfast support strengthens our initiatives, inspires collaboration, and plays a vital role in safeguarding Canada's critical underground infrastructure. Together, we are building a stronger, safer industry for generations to come.

Ready to make an impact? Become a CAPULC Sponsor today at www.capulc.ca/sponsors or email Tracey at admin@capulc.ca.

FEEDBACK NEEDED...



SPRING 2025

CAPULC National Underground Facility Locating & Marking Standard- Version 1.0



CAPULC
**UNDERGROUND FACILITY
LOCATING AND MARKING
STANDARD (Version 1.0)**

The purpose of this document is to provide underground facility locators with the necessary background and context, beyond existing regulation, regarding best practices for underground facility locating. It was written by the Locate Industry, for the Locate Industry. By design, it was not to be used instead of training, certification, regulation or Company specific practices; it should be used to complement them.

Our Education and Standards Committee is requesting input and feedback to help us develop this document! We ask you to review and email any comments to us by Spring 2025. Once changes are made, it is released it to Industry for commentary prior to publishing as a new version. Stay posted!!

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CAN YOU GUESS?

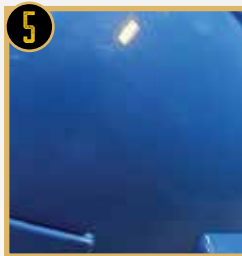
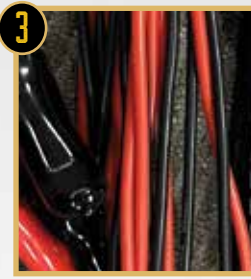
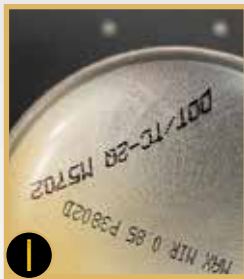
Been involved in protecting underground facilities longer than you can remember?

TRY OUR CAPTIVATING CHALLENGE!

In this edition of *The Locator*, we've included images of eight objects commonly used by locators in their daily work. Details of each item have been hidden from view except for a small area. Can you guess what these items are?

We invite you to share your answers by emailing admin@capulc.ca or by following this link to play online <https://capulc.ca/Can-You-Guess-What-This-Is>. Whether you choose to keep your guesses to yourself or share them with others, be sure to stay connected with us through our website and social media pages.

The mystery items will be revealed at a future time. Meanwhile, take a moment to explore our online resources where we share valuable insights, information, and industry updates keeping us connected and moving forward together. You will also find info on upcoming events, get a free download of the Underground Facility Locating and Marking Standard, and learn about becoming a CAPULC member or sponsor.



Last year's winner: Lindey Lewis from Alberta.



Last year's answers:

1. Vivax receiver
2. Hammer
3. RD transmitter
4. Safety Vest
5. Fuji receiver – on/off button 2112
6. The end of a D Battery
7. Center cap for measuring wheel
8. RD receiver

Education and Standards Committee Update

By Donald Richard and Jamie Andersen

Last year was a milestone year for CAPULC and the Education and Standards Committee with the release of the National Underground Facility Locating and Marking Standard (Version 1.0). Under the guidance of the CAPULC Board of Directors and with the unwavering support of CAPULC members, an Education and Standards subcommittee was established to work closely with an external consulting firm, Jiva Consulting, to develop a comprehensive standard for planning and conducting underground facility locating and marking in Canada, transforming this dream to a reality.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide locators with the necessary background and context regarding best practices for underground facility locating, beyond existing Canadian regulation. Its scope is limited to best practices for locating and marking underground infrastructure (e.g., electric power, lighting, communication, and alarm cables; gas, oil, water, and sewer pipes). This Standard encompasses the entire process, from handling requests for underground facility locating to processing information, executing underground facility locating and marking work, and culminating in the thorough reporting guidelines for locators. In its entirety, the Standard is built to include all steps of the underground facility locating and marking process – Receive Request for Line Locating and Marking, Plan Line Locating and Marking, Perform Line Locating and Marking, Create Documentation, and Send Final Documentation. It covers precise terms and definitions, roles, and responsibilities for both public and private locate requests, code of conduct, worker and site safety, environmental considerations, records management, personnel qualifications and certifications, types of underground infrastructure, locating equipment, facility marking, and incident reporting.

WHO DO WE CREDIT?

Our Education and Standards Committee is composed of many distinguished individuals from across the nation, each representing diverse stakeholder groups, including facility owners, locators, surveyors, education and training providers, equip-

ment manufactures, and regional CGA partners. While it's impossible to list all committee members here, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to every one of them for their unwavering commitment to this noble endeavor.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As we finish off this year and complete our waiting period, it's time to pick up where we left off. One of our primary objectives is to look ahead to future improvements and enhancements to the Standard, taking our Continuous Improvement Log into account and moving it to a Version 2.0. Spring 2025. We will need to action item this task from all the invaluable feedback we've received over this past year. Please make sure to submit your feedback if you haven't already done so.

Our committee will not stop there as there is more to do!

We will explore the potential for development of a self-assessment tool with regards to this new Standard. This will assist our members, training facilitators, and the public to self evaluate where their training programs are in comparison to this new Standard. Where is there potential for improvements? Are there recommendations for change to some elements?

We'll also focus on adding additional resource material for use by our membership. These resources will be based on the requests and suggestions that we've gathered throughout the year such as incident investigation tips, where to go for specific equipment training, is a calibration required and more! Please make sure to participate in our Education and Standards Survey so we can add even more to this list.

These strategic endeavors reflect our unwavering commitment to continued growth and advancement. They pave the path to a brighter and more promising future, where we eagerly embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with unwavering resolve. This next year guarantees results from CAPULC's Education and Standards Committee, and we look forward to seeing what they do! ●

BCCGA fostering excellence



The BCCGA has diligently collaborated with our locator community to establish a professional standard and a comprehensive curriculum aimed at educating locators across the province.

Through our key partnership with the BC Municipal Safety Association (BC-MSA), we have successfully trained thousands of locators in British Columbia, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge for optimal performance.

Additionally, our efforts with the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) culminated in the creation of a specific technical designation known as RULT, further enhancing the professionalism within the field.

We are excited to share our findings and experiences with other jurisdictions across Canada, fostering a culture of excellence and uniformity in locator training nationwide.

Dr. Dave Baspaly
Executive Director and CEO ●

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The Alternate Locate Provider Program has officially launched

By Ron Laidman on behalf of Utility Safety Partners

The Alternate Locate Provider Program (ALP) went live in August from the consortium of infrastructure owners consisting of ATCO (Gas, Electric, Pipelines), TELUS, FortisAlberta, EPCOR, ENMAX, City of Edmonton, and City of Calgary. The ALP Program is a voluntary program that provides an innovative and alternative option for contractors to receive locates by working directly with locate service providers. Utility Safety Partners (USP) is acting as a facilitator for the ALP Program for the consortium to ensure effective program oversight and consistent locate request processes are in place across all stakeholders for both ALP and standard One Call locate requests.

A significant amount of work has gone into ensuring the ALP program successfully launched this past summer. This included many items, including the creation of an ALP Training Standard, industry training course, implementation of an Alternate Locate Service Provider (ALSP) assessment program, alignment on ALP processes and contracts, and implementation of a shared mapping system for all infrastructure owner records. All this work led to an official launch August 1st, and in its first month, over 7,500 ALP requests were submitted to the USP system, representing nearly 10 per cent of all locate requests received in Alberta. This shows the significant demand that exists for an alternative approach to receiving locates and indicates that stakeholders are seeing benefit to using the program.

While any business can submit an ALP locate request, any company performing ALP locates must be assessed and registered as an approved ALSP. The ALSP assessment process is a multi-stage process that ensures any businesses performing ALP locates meets minimum safety, quality, and technical requirements required by the Consortium, and any company seeking registration can submit a request for assessment on the USP website to start the process.

Currently, 17 service providers (which includes one internal work only excavator ALSP) are registered as ALSPs across the province with several other applicants currently undergoing assessment. Within these approved ALSPs, there are more than 125 individual locators either currently registered or in the process of completing training and orientations who will soon be

registered. A key target for the program is to ensure there is sufficient choice and resourcing in all regions of Alberta to be able to select an approved ALSP and perform ALP locates in a safe and timely manner.

ALSPs are seeing benefit from participation in ALP as it permits them to provide locates for significant additional infrastructure that they previously did not have access to. ALSPs have access to consortium records and procedures and are entitled to provide locates on the consortium's behalf, which provides an opportunity to expand service offerings and diversify revenue streams and provide value directly to contractors. Being an ALSP is also seen to provide a boost to an ALSP's brand and signal to the industry its commitment to safety and quality in locating because it shows they have met the stringent qualification requirements by the consortium owners who include many of the major critical infrastructure owners in Alberta.

Excavators also benefit by requesting ALP locates since they can now have additional control, oversight, and flexibility over the locate process through working directly with the ALSP to plan and execute their projects. An additional positive trend is that certain excavators have also started to apply for ALSP registration as well, as they are seeing the program as a new tool to manage locate delivery and have greater control over their projects internally by providing locates themselves.

The program itself is expected to expand over the coming months and years with other critical infrastructure owners expressing interest in joining the ALP program as partners. This will help expand the reach of ALP and ensure a greater amount of infrastructure can be covered by this alternative locate approach.

Since launch, the ALP program has been positively received by stakeholders across the province and the initial data is showing that it has a place in the Alberta damage prevention process. As more ALSPs are registered and more excavators use the process, it is expected to improve the quality and quantity of locating resources in Alberta, which ultimately will positively impact all stakeholders in excavation and damage prevention. ●

Iain Stables, ATCO Gas and Consortium lead for ALP completing a locate in his younger locating days.



A look back at Sask 1st Call

Digging into Sask 1st Call's history, in June 2023 the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance, took over Sask 1st Call from SaskEnergy. Sask 1st Call is a crucial part of the Saskatchewan energy industry.

By Shannon Doka, Executive Director, SCGA



On January 2, 2003, SaskEnergy launched the organization with the familiar “Call Before You Dig” messaging.

“There were notification companies in other provinces like Ontario and Alberta. Companies that crossed over borders really saw the value in having a notification service in Saskatchewan, too,” says Shawn Fairman, General Manager, Distribution Customer Services, and Vice-President of the new Sask 1st Call Board of Directors.

“It made sense for SaskEnergy to be a part of it because we have a lot of underground infrastructure and because safety is a core value for our company.”

Sask 1st Call enhances safety for people and businesses doing construction in Saskatchewan. They can request a line locate free of charge, either by calling a 1-800 phone number or submitting a request online, and within three business days, any underground infrastructure will be marked using flags, stakes, or paint. If an area is marked, this is a clear signal to not dig in or obstruct the area.

Likewise, Sask 1st Call is a beneficial service for subscribing companies that have underground facilities, helping ensure those facilities are protected.

“Sask 1st Call enables dependable, cost-effective communication

between subscribers and those intending to disturb the ground,” says Shannon Doka, Executive Director, SCGA. “This service greatly enhances public safety, as many facilities may exist underground that landowners are unaware of.”

With this mission of safety for both users and subscribers, Sask 1st Call has grown over the years. It began when SaskEnergy saw the need as underground facilities continued to grow in complexity and worked to build the organization throughout 2002. In April that year, it was lauded in the provincial legislature as a “valuable service to pipeline companies.”

“This is another example of the people of Saskatchewan’s public industry serving the public good and helping to encourage more investment and expansion in our province,” Member of the Legislative Assembly Keith Goulet stated at the time.

When it launched eight months later, Sask 1st Call had just two registered member companies: SaskEnergy and TransGas. Others quickly joined, and today, Sask 1st Call has more than 120 subscriber companies!

In the early years, “Call Before You Dig” was the primary option for Sask 1st Call. However, people could also request a locate by fax machine! In the service’s first year, more than 49,000 fax requests were received.

SaskEnergy’s Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) an-

swered the toll-free calls. They then consulted a screening database to determine which subscriber companies had infrastructure at the customer's location. In early 2020, a Master Services Agreement with Utility Safety Partners (formerly Alberta One Call Corporation) provided for a more consistent approach to the one call service.

In August 2004, conveniently, online requests became an option. That year, there were more than 97,000 online locates requested and the service had grown to include 20 subscriber companies. Also in 2004, SaskTel joined Sask 1st Call – the first non-oil & gas company to become a member.

Five years later, another Crown Corporation, SaskPower, signed on to Sask 1st Call. By 2010, line locate requests had grown five-fold.

Online requests continue to grow – 147,155 in 2023, and the accuracy of the maps included tends to be higher, though users can still phone in their locate requests. Since the transfer of operations, updates have been done to both the Sask 1st Call website (www.sask1stcall.com) and to the Before You Dig Partners website (www.onecall.beforeyoudigpartners.com). These updates include making both websites more mobile friendly, educational, and easier to use.

Over the years, the organization continued to expand its reach and support its mandate of public safety and damage prevention.

In 2014, a Safety Patrol program was launched with the goal of reducing incidents in new urban neighbourhoods in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and suburban communities of Regina.

In vehicles decorated with Sask 1st Call branding, the contracted patrollers actively checked in with people in the new areas. When landscaping, building a fence or deck, or pouring a new driveway, people were asked if they had completed a line locate. The program contributed to a steady decline in third-party line hits.

Nowadays, technology makes it more convenient to request line locates.

“Over time we try to make it as easy as possible and promote the online requests instead of calling in. We have found that far fewer incidents happen when requests are made online instead of by phone,” says Fairman.

“It’s really about making sure the customers are safe,” Fairman adds. “Many times, there are high voltage power lines or gas lines, and it’s in everyone’s best interest when we’re doing the projects in our yard that we’re being safe.”

Twenty years after it was launched, Sask 1st Call introduced a change to make things more efficient and convenient for cus-



tomers and subscribers: The line locate expiry date was extended from 10 business days to 30 calendar days.

This change aligns Saskatchewan with other provinces and jurisdictions that already had a 30-day window for line locates.

"All parties agree this change will safely help deal with the unexpected, such as weather-related delays, equipment breakdown and needed crew downtime," Doka says.

The most recent substantial change took place in June 2023, when the SCGA began managing the service.

"The SCGA is a good fit to oversee the service," Fairman adds, "as a non-profit organization that shares SaskEnergy's dedication to public safety, environmental protection and damage prevention".

As a newly formed non-profit corporation, Sask 1st Call now has a Board of Directors – appointed by the SCGA – to provide strategic direction to the business and governance.

The Sask 1st Call Board of Directors are:

- James Cameron, Veren Energy, Calgary - President
- Shawn Fairman, SaskEnergy, Regina - Vice-President
- Bryan Abel, BH Telecom/Flex Networks, Kitchener - Secretary-Treasurer
- Kyle Schmalenberg, SaskTel, Regina
- Kevin Lalonde, SaskPower, Saskatoon

- Jodi Long, Kingston Midstream, Estevan
- Kim Brady, Whitecap Resources, Weyburn
- Jennifer Wilkinson, City of Weyburn, Weyburn
- Richard Lamontagne, Absolute Locating, Oxbow

"Establishing Sask 1st Call was a great initiative, and it's grown over the years to something that's going to be a legacy for SaskEnergy," says Fairman.

Since the June 2023 transfer, the membership of SCGA has grown to over 125 members, and new subscribers continue to join Sask 1st Call every month. One notable addition to Sask 1st Call is the Shaw assets (now registered under Rogers Communications), which were uploaded to Sask 1st Call's mapping in March of this year.

In addition to the new board, Sask 1st Call also has a new Director to manage the service and day to day operations. Lisa Kosolofski started in this role in October 2023.

"Lisa brings a lot of experience to promote and provide customer service to Sask 1st Call users and subscribers," says Doka. "The SCGA and Sask 1st Call are looking forward to what the next 20 years will bring!"

For more information on Sask 1st Call, visit www.sask1stcall.com or email firstcalldirector@scga.ca.

For more information on SCGA, visit www.scga.ca or email executivedirector@scga.ca. ●

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Take our Survey

Answer this quick survey and give CAPULC Education and Standards Committee important insight to information that matters to you.

CAPULC

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white knit beanie and a white turtleneck sweater, is smiling and pointing her right index finger towards a QR code displayed on a black smartphone held in her left hand. The background is a solid yellow color.

Info-Excavation: 30 years of innovation dedicated to damage prevention

By Celine Bourson, Marketing & Communications Advisor

For over three decades, Info-Excavation has stood out as Quebec's unique notification center and has expanded its expertise to the Atlantic provinces over the last eight years. Staying at the cutting edge, our team continuously innovates in technology, processes, and initiatives aimed at damage prevention and risk reduction. We're proud to report that these efforts have reduced damages by 50 per cent in 10 years, lowering the average number of incidents from over six to just over three per day.

PROACTIVE AWARENESS ON ALL FRONTS

Each year, we launch a wide communication campaign in Quebec, using a humorous approach to attract attention and build awareness of our mission. This success is rooted in the valuable collaboration with our infrastructure-owner partners, who work with us to amplify our message through different media channels.

In addition, our prevention representatives have spent over five years actively visiting worksites from April to October, educating workers on best practices to avoid damages. Beyond worksites, we collaborate with key stakeholders such as pool specialists, fence companies, equipment rental centers, and heavy machinery manufacturers to share our prevention messages.

AN ACTIVE PRESENCE IN THE INDUSTRY

We regularly participate in industry conferences, providing presentations that highlight our services and further increase awareness. Every year, we recognize the outstanding work of contractors and municipalities leading in damage prevention, honoring them through various recognition programs. These ambassadors inspire their peers and emphasize the importance of our cause.

AN EXPANDING TRAINING PROGRAM

Our training program continues to evolve and expand. Accredited by several Quebec institutions, our courses have grown in popularity each year: the number of participants has nearly

doubled in seven years, a milestone we're very proud of. We've also adapted our courses to better prepare the next generation of workers.

INNOVATIVE AND FREE TOOLS FOR ALL

Our technical team plays a pivotal role in innovation, setting our organization apart as the only non-profit developing free provincial tools to support stakeholders in damage prevention:

- Info-Management, our latest interface, offers optimized, efficient management of locate requests for organizations.
- Info-RTU, the only provincial app for project planning and collaboration in public rights-of-way, has seen multiple upgrades for improved user experience.
- The Locate Request Transfer Tool allows users to duplicate and forward locate requests, along with responses from infrastructure owners, to a third party.
- Our mapping process for abandoned or unidentified infrastructure has been refined, with increased follow-up with requestors to gather relevant information.

Our vision extends beyond today's solutions. In the long term, we aim to build a streamlined communication chain where project information and requests (for plans and locates) integrate into the next steps, featuring digital municipal consent and an app that tracks all current or upcoming work. This ambition is intended to empower all stakeholders at every level for more transparent, coordinated, and effective project management.

To learn more about Info-Excavation, visit our website at www.info-ex.com. ●



Info-Excavation : 30 ans d'innovation au service de la prévention des dommages



By Celine Bourson, Conseillère marketing et communication

Depuis plus de trois décennies, Info-Excavation se distingue comme l'unique centre de traitement des demandes de localisation au Québec, étendant son expertise depuis 8 ans aux provinces de l'Atlantique. Toujours à la fine pointe, notre équipe innove en matière de technologies, processus et initiatives, visant à prévenir les dommages et réduire les risques. Nous sommes fiers de constater que nos efforts ont permis de diminuer de 50 per cent les bris en dix ans, réduisant ainsi le nombre de bris de plus de six à plus trois par jour.

UNE SENSIBILISATION PROACTIVE SUR TOUS LES FRONTS

Pour sensibiliser un large public, nous déployons chaque an-

née une campagne de communication à travers le Québec, s'appuyant sur une approche humoristique pour capter l'attention et renforcer la notoriété de notre mission. Ce succès repose sur la précieuse collaboration de nos partenaires propriétaires d'infrastructures, qui s'unissent à nous pour amplifier nos messages sur différents médias de prédilection.

En parallèle, nos préventionnistes arpentent les chantiers d'avril à octobre depuis plus de cinq ans. Ils veillent à sensibiliser les travailleurs aux bonnes pratiques pour éviter les bris. Au-delà des chantiers, nous collaborons également avec des intervenants clés tels que les maîtres pisciniers, compagnies de clôtures, centres de location d'outils, et fabricants de machinerie lourde pour partager nos messages de prévention.

UNE PRÉSENCE ACTIVE DANS L'INDUSTRIE

Nous participons régulièrement aux congrès de l'industrie, offrant des conférences pour faire rayonner nos services et sensibiliser davantage. Chaque année, nous reconnaissons le travail exemplaire d'entrepreneurs et de municipalités qui se démarquent en matière de prévention des dommages, en mettant en lumière ces lauréats dans différents programmes de reconnaissance. Ces ambassadeurs inspirent leurs pairs et soulignent l'importance de notre cause.

UN PROGRAMME DE FORMATION EN PLEINE EXPANSION

Notre programme de formation continue à évoluer et s'enrichir. Nos formations, accréditées par différentes instances québécoises, voient leur popularité croître d'année en année : le nombre de participants a presque doublé en sept ans et nous en sommes très fiers. Nous avons également adapté nos formations pour mieux préparer la relève.

DES OUTILS INNOVANTS ET GRATUITS POUR TOUS

Notre équipe technique joue un rôle clé dans l'innovation, et notre organisation se distingue en tant que seul organisme à but non lucratif à développer des outils provinciaux gratuits pour soutenir les parties prenantes dans la prévention des dommages aux infrastructures :

- Info-Gestion, notre dernière interface, offre une gestion optimisée et efficace des demandes de localisation pour les organisations.
- Info-RTU, la seule application provinciale pour la planification et la concertation de projets dans l'emprise publique, a



bénéficié de multiples améliorations pour le confort de nos utilisateurs.

- L'outil de transfert de demande de localisation permet de dupliquer et transmettre à un tiers non seulement la demande de localisation, mais aussi toutes les réponses des propriétaires d'infrastructures.
- Le processus de cartographie des infrastructures abandonnées/réseaux non identifiés s'est affiné, avec un suivi renforcé auprès des demandeurs pour collecter un maximum d'informations pertinentes.

Notre vision va bien au-delà des solutions actuelles. À long terme, nous visons à bâtir une chaîne de communication fluide, dans laquelle les informations de projets et les demandes (de plans et de localisations) s'intégreraient aux étapes suivantes, avec un consentement municipal numérique et une application recensant tous les travaux en cours ou prévus. Cette ambition vise à outiller toutes les parties prenantes à chaque niveau, pour une gestion des projets encore plus transparente, coordonnée et saine.

Pour en savoir davantage sur Info-Excavation, consultez notre site web au www.info-ex.com. ●



Dedicated Locator Model: Ontario's journey to safe and efficient excavation

By Adam Mordaunt, Director of Member Services, Ontario One Call



In April 2022, Dedicated Locator was integrated into the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification Systems Act, 2012 (OUINSA), providing the excavating community with an option to control the locate delivery for their projects. Since its introduction, thousands of projects have leveraged this service to gain greater control over locate delivery, reducing crew and equipment downtime, saving money, and ultimately keeping projects on time.

WHAT IS A DEDICATED LOCATOR

A Dedicated Locator is a single resource who will locate all underground infrastructure in the project area. The Dedicated Locator works directly for the

Project Owner, aligning their efforts with the project's schedule to complete the locates. This approach offers more control over timelines and reduces delays. The process involves four straightforward steps:

- 1) **Notice Submission:** The Project Owner submits a 90 Days' Notice to Ontario One Call and agrees on a Dedicated Locator Service Provider (DLSP) with all affected infrastructure owners
- 2) **Infrastructure Identification:** Ontario One Call identifies Buried Infrastructure Owners in the vicinity of the project or Region.
- 3) **Mapping Submission:** The Members

provide the DLSP with the infrastructure records/mapping within 10 business days.

- 4) **Locate Completion:** The DLSP must complete the locate within 10 business days.

BENEFITS OF A DEDICATED LOCATOR

The Dedicated Locator model gives control of the locate process to the Project Owners and removes time-consuming and complex locates from the public stream. This allows for more efficient use of locators for all other locate requests, helping the industry meet regulatory compliance and ensuring high-priority projects progress smoothly.

Having a Dedicated Locator available on-site throughout the project ensures quick resolution of any issues or questions from the construction crew. This focused approach leads to more accurate, efficient locates, helping prevent delays and improving safety.

In addition, the model promotes better infrastructure mapping. In fact, infrastructure owners are required to provide up-to-date records to the DLSP, encouraging continuous review and improvement of mapping systems. Accurate mapping is essential to ensuring safe excavation and complete locates, reducing the risk of accidents or damage.

CHALLENGES

While the Dedicated Locator model expedites locate delivery, improves safety, and enhances compliance, achieving optimal balance and consensus among stakeholders remains an ongoing journey. To address this, Ontario One Call (OOC) has been facilitating monthly meetings with industry members to educate stakeholders, answer questions, and explore trends, changes, and solutions.

Another challenge is the industry's shortage of locators. To address this, OOC formed a working committee comprising various industry stakeholders. This group is tasked with developing a framework to qualify locators as DLSPs while maintaining safety standards and ensuring underground infrastructure owners' confidence in the process.

Stakeholder engagement and education remain central to OOC's strategy, fostering collaboration, ensuring compliance, and keeping the Dedicated Locator program aligned with the industry's needs.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Dedicated Locator model continues to evolve. Recently, the Ontario Minis-

try of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement introduced a new regulation under the OUINSA Act, 2012. This regulation allows designated broadband projects, previously required to use the Dedicated Locator model, to choose between the Dedicated Locator model and the standard locate process for identifying underground infrastructure. Eligibility applies to projects in Northern Ontario or municipalities with populations under 100,000.

This initiative aligns with Ontario's goal of expanding high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved areas by the end of 2025. Providing designated broadband projects with the flexibility to use the Dedicated Locator model supports timely delivery and ensures efficient infrastructure installation.

The Dedicated Locator model will con-

tinue to drive positive change, adapting to the evolving needs of the industry. As Jashikan Packkiyarajah, Assistant Program Manager at Amico Affiliates, observes: "Using the Dedicated Locator Program resulted in a remarkable improvement in efficiency, with locates becoming available within five days. This swift turnaround not only facilitated the smooth progress of our work but also ensured that our projects proceeded without unnecessary delays."

By offering a cost-effective approach to managing locates and keeping projects on time, the Dedicated Locator model is transforming excavation practices in Ontario. With ongoing improvements and stakeholder collaboration, it's well-positioned to support the province's infrastructure development and future growth. ●



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Locate validity period extension



By Scott Boudreau, Chair ATLCGA

The Atlantic Canada Common Ground Alliance (ATLCGA) is proposing to extend the locate validity period from 30 days to 60 days in Atlantic Canada. This extension is expected to enhance efficiency for both infrastructure owners and ground disturbers (excavators) by reducing the need for repeated locates, ultimately saving time and resources.

According to data from Info-Excavation, the notification service provider for Atlantic Canada, the ATLCGA anticipates a five to 10 per cent reduction in re-locates because of this change.

After careful consideration, ATLCGA members involved in the discussions have recommended a 60-day validity period. This proposed extension doubles the current 30-day timeframe and is seen as more effective than a 45-day period, particularly for long-term projects where re-locates may otherwise be necessary.

Benefits of a 60-Day Locate Validity Period:

- **Extended Ground Disturbance Timeframe:** Ground disturbers (excavators) will have up to 60 days to complete their work, providing additional flexibility.
- **Cost Reduction:** Lower costs associated with locates for delayed work and long-term projects.
- **Fewer Re-locates:** More time to complete work reduces the number of re-locate requests.
- **Improved Scheduling Flexibility:** Locators will have more flexibility in managing their schedules, as fewer requests will be submitted into the Notification System.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** A longer validity period will ease the paperwork and administrative efforts for all parties involved.
- **Encouraging Participation:** Greater efficiency and less confusion will encourage broader participation in the Notification System.

The ATLCGA does not anticipate a significant increase in the risk of infrastructure damage by ground disturbers as a result of this extension.

The Info-Excavation Notification System, used across Atlantic

Canada, undergoes daily re-validation, automatically updating stakeholders when new facilities are installed and a new locate is required. Ground disturbers are still required to request a re-mark if locate markings become obscured or displaced over time.

NEXT STEPS

ATLCGA members will vote on this proposal during the Annual General Meeting in November. To participate in this important discussion, make sure you're a member of the ATLCGA and on the mailing list.



To ensure smooth implementation and avoid confusion, it is critical that all infrastructure owners participating in Info-Excavation agree on a consistent locate validity period. A unified approach will help ground disturbers manage their locates effectively, especially when dealing with multiple infrastructure owners.

For Infrastructure Owners: The proposed extension is expected to decrease the number of locates submitted, which should lead to improved response times and lower costs for long-term projects and re-locates.

For Locators: Fewer re-locate requests will allow locators to allocate resources more efficiently and focus on locates that are necessary, leading to better service delivery.

For Ground Disturbers (Excavators): Having 60 days to complete work will reduce the need for frequent re-locates, allowing more flexibility in handling project delays due to weather, equipment issues, or permitting challenges.

Ground disturbers must ensure they have valid locates and that markings are clearly visible before any ground disturbance takes place. Locate documentation must also be kept on-site for the duration of the project.

Implementation Timeline: If the proposal is adopted, the 60-day locate validity period will take effect in the spring of 2025.

For more information on how to join the ATLCGA, visit our website or contact us at info@atlanticdigsafe.ca. ●

Elevating safety in Ontario: Best practices in utility damage prevention

By Gordon Campbell , Technical Trainer,
OO Evaluator, Aecon Utilities Inc.



In the ever-changing landscape of utility management in Ontario, prioritizing safety and damage prevention is more crucial than ever before. With the simultaneous challenges of rapid capital growth and the swift evolution of technology, Ontario's utility companies find themselves at the forefront of safeguarding critical underground infrastructure. This article aims to dig deep into the world of best practices in utility damage prevention. It draws upon industry insights and shines a spotlight on a couple of real-life case studies. The objective is to equip utility companies across Ontario with effective strategies that can bolster their safety measures and operational efficiency. As we navigate through this landscape, we uncover innovative approaches and cutting-edge technologies that are shaping the future of utility management. I invite you to join me on this journey as we explore these pivotal strategies and their potential to make a real difference in damage prevention.

CURRENT BEST PRACTICES FOR UTILITY COMPANIES

In Ontario's utility sector – where safety is non-negotiable – adopting and evolving best practices like those contained in the CCGA Best Practice manual is essential. In today's environment, a new approach is emerging, data-driven decision-making. This shift from relying solely on practical knowledge and intuition to harnessing the power of analytics is truly encouraging.

Data-Driven Decisions: In response to the vast number of excavations happening simultaneously, utilities are moving away from traditional methods of manual ticket tracking and intuition toward more data-driven approaches. Embracing these data-driven technologies allows for better resource allocation and risk anticipation. For instance, several Ontario utilities are now using risk assessment tools like Planview's Multiviewer platform or Urbint for Damage Prevention, which assigns risk scores to excavation sites, helping utilities prioritize high-risk areas and

respond proactively. This approach has proven successful across a range of utilities, predicting damages before they occur.

Re-evaluating Call/Click-Before-You-Dig Campaigns: Another crucial aspect for Ontario utilities is evaluating the effectiveness of their Call/Click-Before-You-Dig campaigns, especially among hard-to-reach groups such as homeowners. For example, Ontario One Call adjusted its campaign imagery to resonate better with homeowners, showing the impact of tailored messaging. By using relatable, everyday scenarios instead of just professional excavation, the campaign saw increased homeowner awareness and requests, underscoring the importance of relatable and targeted messaging.

As utilities continue navigating the complexities of safeguarding their infrastructure, embracing these best practices becomes paramount to ensure the safety and integrity of their assets. In the following sections, we'll dive into the technological advancements in the field, spotlight a successful case study, tackle common challenges, and explore the emerging trends in damage prevention.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The utility sector in Ontario has seen a remarkable transformation thanks to technological advancements over the years. These technological leaps aren't just about making things easier; they've introduced a whole new level of precision when it comes to identifying and protecting underground utilities.

Emergence of Predictive Technologies: The world of damage prevention is undergoing a significant transformation, and at the heart of this change is the rise of predictive technologies. Ontario's utility companies are now increasingly leveraging tools like advanced GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and AI-driven risk assessment models. These AI systems can aggregate and

examine vast amounts of data from various sources, including locate tickets and past excavation incidents, to provide utility companies with detailed risk assessments for different locations. For instance, implementing Microsoft's Power BI, an AI-based analytics tool, has enabled predictions of potential damage hotspots and future demand patterns, potentially reducing excavation-related incidents by being proactive rather than reactive. By tapping into predictive analytics, utility companies can significantly boost their damage prevention strategies, ensuring a more reliable supply of services while reducing the chances of costly, unplanned damages.

Remote Sensing and Monitoring: Another leap forward is the integration of remote sensing and monitoring tools. These technologies enable real-time tracking of underground utilities, keeping utility operators constantly informed about the status of various infrastructures. For example, fiber optic sensing technology, utilizing light's physical properties as it traverses along a fiber, can detect changes in temperature, strain, and other parameters. This technology, transforming the fiber into a series of sensor points, holds immense potential for utilities in monitoring structural health and detecting potentially harmful activities.

Embracing these advancements, utility companies are not just enhancing their ability to prevent damage but are also paving the path toward a future where utility management becomes more secure, efficient, and responsive. How might these technological developments further transform the landscape of utility management in the coming years?

CASE STUDY ON EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

Case studies serve as a crucial resource, providing concrete examples of how best practices can be effectively implemented. A prime example is how Enbridge Gas Inc. has harnessed collaboration to meet the challenge of damage prevention.

Case Study: Enbridge Gas Inc. Collaborative Efforts: Central to Enbridge's damage prevention strategy is collaboration. By forging strong partnerships with excavators and other stakeholders, Enbridge has crafted a shared responsibility model. This approach is manifested in regular forums, such as ORCGA events and geographic council meetings, where stakeholders collectively discuss and refine best practices. A notable outcome from these collaborations is a measurable reduction in overall incidents and a significant elevation in knowledge and safety standards, demonstrating the model's effectiveness.

Enbridge's approach of blending education and collaboration into their strategy isn't just about protecting infrastructure; it's

about raising the bar for public safety. How might other utility companies draw inspiration from Enbridge's model to enhance their own damage prevention strategies?

COMMON CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING DAMAGE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Implementing damage prevention strategies comes with its unique set of challenges. The challenges below represent just some of the more challenging aspects of damage prevention strategies.

Resource Allocation: One of the most significant challenges facing utilities today is the allocation of resources. With numerous excavation projects underway simultaneously, utility companies often struggle to prioritize and allocate their limited resources effectively. This is particularly challenging in peak excavation season, where the risk of damage is increased due to the sheer volume of ongoing excavations.

Technological Integration: The integration of new technologies into existing systems poses a significant challenge. Many utilities struggle with the complexities of updating legacy mapping systems, a process demanding significant time, training, and financial resources.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Achieving effective collaboration among various stakeholders – including utility companies, excavators, government bodies, and the public – is critical yet challenging. Miscommunication and lack of coordination can lead to increased risks of utility damage.

To effectively address these challenges, a multifaceted approach is essential, one that combines technological innovation, strategic resource management, and enhanced stakeholder collaboration. By recognizing and tackling these obstacles head-on, Ontario's utility companies can continue to refine their damage prevention strategies, paving the way for safer and more resilient utility operations. What are the emerging trends or innovative solutions that could further revolutionize damage prevention?

FUTURE TRENDS IN DAMAGE PREVENTION FOR THE UTILITY INDUSTRY

As we look toward the future, the landscape of utility damage prevention in Ontario is set for a transformative shift, driven by breakthroughs in technology and evolving industry practices. Staying ahead of these trends is crucial for utility professionals to continue enhancing safety and efficiency.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: AI and machine

learning are at the forefront of revolutionizing damage prevention. These technologies can analyze vast amounts of data to predict potential risk areas, thereby enabling more targeted and effective interventions. Ontario's utility companies can begin to leverage these possibilities, with predictive maintenance, avoiding asset failures and even adapting to demand.

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR): The advent of AR and VR is reshaping how utility professionals interact with their environment. AR, in particular, offers real-time, 3D visualizations of underground infrastructure, potentially diminishing the risk of accidental damage during excavation processes.

Advanced Sensing Technologies: The future will also see an increased use of advanced sensing technologies, such as ground-penetrating radar and acoustic sensors. These tools can detect and map underground utilities with unprecedented accuracy and detail, a critical factor in preventing damage.

Drones and Robotics: Drones and robotic technologies offer new ways to inspect and monitor utility infrastructures. Utility companies are experimenting with drone technology for aerial surveys and inspections, which can provide valuable information while reducing the need for hazardous, manual inspections.

These emerging trends signify a new era of innovation in the utility damage prevention field. Embracing these technologies not only promises enhanced operational efficiency for Ontario's utilities but also contributes to building a safer and more sustainable future. How will these technologies reshape the utility industry in the next decade?

CONCLUSION

As we've seen throughout this article, utility damage prevention isn't a one-size-fits-all concept – it's a constantly evolving and multifaceted field. At the heart of this is the drive to leverage data-driven strategies and integrate emerging technologies, continually pushing the boundaries of how utilities safeguard infrastructure and ensure public safety. The case studies and best practices we've explored here aren't just success stories; they're a reminder of how innovation and working together play a crucial part in propelling the industry into the future.

The path of damage prevention is all about learning and adapting as we go. It's our willingness to embrace new ideas and work together that keeps pushing the industry in the right direction. ●



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LYME DISEASE:

How could this happen to me?

By Kelsey Kilback, Registered Nurse



When I thought of Lyme disease, I thought of Avril Lavigne or Justin Bieber. Like, no actual normal person gets Lyme disease, right? In June of 2021, I was proven wrong. I woke up with hangover-type symptoms after a night out, but I didn't think much of it until I had significant pain in my hip. When I looked at it, I had a bull's-eye-type lesion that, within hours, developed into a blister in the center. No tick, no "bite" to be seen. Over a few days, the hangover-type symptoms progressed. I began experiencing headaches, migraines, dizziness, an "intoxicated" feeling, exhaustion, body aches, neck/back stiffness, mood swings, shortness of breath, light sensitivity, and worst of all, brain fog with memory issues that impaired my ability to work.

I spoke to three different physicians, who all diagnosed it as Lyme disease, and I was placed on an antibiotic called doxycycline for 10 days. This lesion progressed over a period, killing my tissue regularly. I struggled in university, my brain felt broken, and I was no longer able to train in the gym six or seven times a week. As a fit, healthy, young 20-something nursing student, I couldn't understand how this was happening to me. I feared that I would be mentally and physically unable to finish my degree and felt I had an uncertain future. I continued to experience these vague symptoms on and off for months and turned to a very restrictive diet and a naturopath to try to treat/control my symptoms.

To this day, I am unsure how I got Lyme disease. Was it from walking my dog in wooded grassy areas, or on that rooftop patio in downtown Calgary while drinking the night before? I did not see a tick or bite, and to top it off, the Lyme disease bull's-eye rash can develop three to 30 days after being infected. I was, and still am, dumbfounded as to how this happened.

The symptoms of Lyme disease can include but are not limited to flu-like symptoms in the start, developing into stiff/painful

neck, disorientation, anxiety, hearing loss, bone pain, muscle pain, weight changes, chest pain, fatigue, night sweats, vision issues, IBS, memory issues, ear pain, heart palpitations, depression, dizziness, insomnia, suicidal ideation, and even sexual dysfunction. Progressive Lyme can lead to paralysis and MS symptoms, which can lead to improper diagnosis and treatment. There are plenty of nerve-related symptoms, which can lead to a diagnosis of fibromyalgia without treating underlying Lyme. Lyme disease can present as more frightening is that the smaller the tick, the more likely they are to transmit Lyme disease, with some being as small as a poppy seed.

The first step in getting treatment for Lyme disease is obviously getting a diagnosis, but this is easier said than done, as many Western medicine physicians deny that Lyme disease is even present in Alberta. Even if you can get a blood test done, there is only one lab Alberta Health Services uses to do testing for all of Alberta – in Edmonton – but the test they provide is subpar and difficult to get a positive result. Most Lyme patients can find success from seeing a Functional Medicine doctor (which can cost over \$5,000 to even get taken on as a patient) or from seeing Naturopathic Doctors (also costly, but less than Functional Medicine). Functional Medicine Doctors and Naturopathic Doctors are often the most helpful in Alberta for identification, testing, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease. In Alberta, many Naturopaths can struggle with treating Lyme patients as they do not have the ability to prescribe medications. In British Columbia, they can prescribe, which is why Dr. Anouk Chaudmont in Grande Prairie will see patients from her Grande Prairie clinic in her Dawson Creek clinic, in order to treat these patients with medications.

When a Lyme infection is treated with antibiotics, it can be effective, but it can also cause the Lyme bacteria to change into "round bodies," meaning that the bacteria change shape. Lyme

bacteria can also morph into a biofilm-like species that is resistant to antibiotics. These morphologic changes can occur minutes or hours into an infection, resulting in the virus “hiding” from our immune system within the body, remaining undetected. Lyme disease can remain dormant, and symptoms surge when the body is exposed to different conditions, resulting in symptom reappearance and Chronic Lyme Disease. With this knowledge, it’s easier to understand why Lyme can be so difficult to treat, and how antibiotics can be inadequate for up to 20 per cent of identified cases.

With tick bites, there are often multiple co-infections, and microscopic worms are transmitted. Even if the Lyme virus is treated, there are still many other possible organisms to blame if symptoms linger. This is often where autoimmune-type symptoms occur, as the body is trying to eliminate these parasitic organisms while we are feeding them.

The unfortunate truth is that Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose and test for. The array of symptoms results in various diagnoses without treating the culprit. Testing in Alberta is challenging because of the type AHS offers, but even if you send blood to gold standard testing labs in other countries, there are still barriers. Patients may test negative if the Lyme bacteria has developed biofilm or if your body has not developed antibodies to the bacteria. The antibody testing is 35 to 50 per cent accurate, resulting in false negatives.

Given all the complexities surrounding Lyme disease, prevention is crucial. It is key to wear light-colored clothing for tick visibility, reduce skin exposure by wearing full clothing, and tuck pants into socks. Permethrin-treated clothing is helpful, but Icaridin and Deet-containing spray repellants are also effective. Placing clothing in the dryer for 15 minutes can kill ticks on clothing, but it’s imperative to do a thorough body check when you get home. Tick removal kits can help safely remove ticks and help you to send the tick away for testing. It’s important to note that because a large amount of people don’t get a rash, be aware of symptoms in order to treat as soon as possible. Early antibiotic use is the greatest option for a cure.

For a lot of people, imperfect testing, unclear treatments, vague symptoms, and limited knowledge of the disease restrict individuals from being diagnosed with a definitive cure. Personally, I cannot afford extensive testing and diagnostic visits to continue down the path for a cure. Luckily, my background in science provides me with access to and understanding of research. However, I have turned to a symptom management approach with healthy lifestyle changes and a limited diet to keep myself in functional condition. My advice, coming from someone who



has never seen a single tick in this province, is to educate yourself and treat every outdoor adventure as if you are at risk. There are slim chances of complete normalcy afterwards.

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Beneath our feet: CSA Z247 Technical Committee reconvenes to modernize damage prevention



By Gordon Campbell, Technical Trainer, OQ Evaluator, Aecon Utilities Inc.

After nearly a decade since its initial publication, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z247 Technical Committee has reconvened. The goal of this committee is to review and update the Z247 standard, potentially introducing needed changes that could impact stakeholders who rely on its guidance.

BACKGROUND

The CSA Z247 standard, titled “Damage prevention for the protection of underground infrastructure,” has been a cornerstone document for the Damage Prevention sector since its initial publication. Over the last 10 years, this standard has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of underground infrastructure protection in Canada. The journey began in 2015 with the launch of the CSA Z247 standard, the first Damage Prevention Standard in Canada. This standard was born out of a collective vision to enhance public safety, protect our environment, and ultimately, save lives.

It was a product of tireless efforts by a diverse group of stakeholders, including regulators, transmission pipelines, telecommunications, municipalities, electricity providers, excavators, One-Call services, locators, and buried-infrastructure associations. Together, they designed a Damage Prevention Standard that applies to all of them.

WHY THIS REVIEW MATTERS

1. **Technological Advancements:** The past decade has seen rapid technological progress. The committee’s review is expected to assess these advancements, potentially incorporating them into the standard.
2. **Regulatory Landscape:** Changes in provincial and federal regulations may necessitate updates to ensure the standard remains compliant and relevant.
3. **Industry Feedback:** A decade of practical application has likely generated valuable insights from industry stakeholders. This series of meetings provides an opportunity to address any gaps or areas for improvement identified over the years.

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

While specific details of the proposed changes are yet to be announced, industry experts anticipate discussions on:

- Integration of new technologies and methodologies
- Enhanced safety protocols
- Sustainability and environmental considerations

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The CSA welcomes input from industry stakeholders. Here’s how you can participate:

1. **Public Review:** Once draft updates are available, participate in the public review process to provide feedback.
2. **Industry Consultation:** Attend any scheduled industry consultation sessions.
3. **Join the Committee:** Consider applying to join the technical committee where spaces exist or join as a guest to present your ideas at one of the working groups

STAY INFORMED

To keep abreast of developments:

- Visit the CSA Group website regularly for updates (<https://community.csa-group.org/news>)
- Subscribe to CSA’s newsletter (<https://www.csagroup.org/store/newsletter/>)
- Follow CSA on social media platforms
- Download a copy of the standard (<https://www.csagroup.org/store/product/CAN-CSA-Z247-15/>)
- Reach out to any committee member for a chat

Since its inception, the CSA Z247 standard has served as a driving force, directing activities around underground infrastructure and ensuring the safety of our workers and communities. However, as we stand here today, nearly a decade later, we recognize that our world has evolved.

Gordon Campbell, Chair of the Committee, stated: "As we look to the future, we see the potential for the CSA Z247 standard to evolve and adapt to these changes. We envision a standard that not only reflects the realities of today but also anticipates the needs of tomorrow. This is not an easy task or one to be taken lightly, but I am confident that with the collective wisdom and dedication of this committee, we can rise to the challenge."

Stay tuned for more updates as this important process unfolds. ●



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Temporary structures and their challenges

By Gary Mason, LineStar Utility Supply Inc.,
and Corey Baker, Enmax

In recent years, the increasing frequency of natural disasters has necessitated the rapid establishment of provisional temporary structures. These miniature cities are designed to provide essential infrastructure such as water, gas, electricity, telecommunications, and sewer systems. They serve as provisional housing for evacuees while they rebuild or relocate and also function as emergency response and command centers, temporary mobile hospitals, and more.

The urgency of setting up these temporary microcities often leads to noncompliance with “ground disturbance” legislation. Some utilities in these areas are buried at shallow depths of just two to six inches underground, far below the standard requirements. The problem is compounded when these temporary cit-

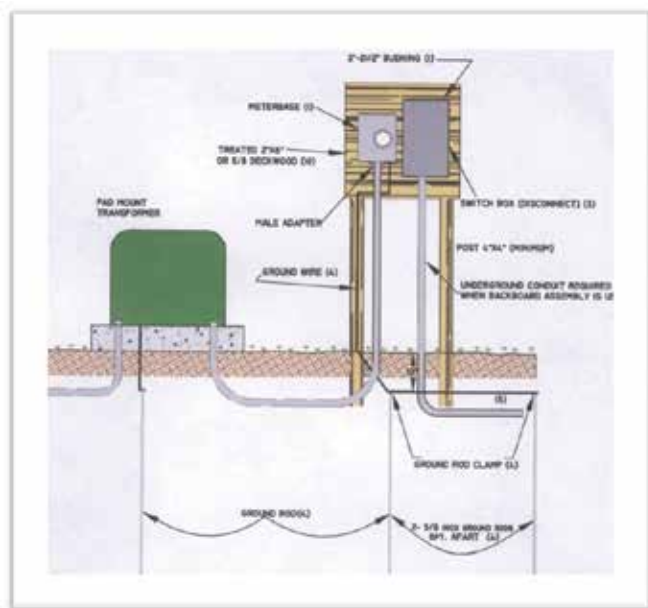


ies are decommissioned; utilities are frequently left behind for property owners to manage, resulting in a legacy of abandoned infrastructure.

This leftover infrastructure poses significant challenges. Without clear records or ownership, it becomes difficult to manage and remove these utilities. Excavators often must work around these obstacles, leading to delays and increased costs. The absence of documentation means there is no clear accountability, leaving the responsibility to property owners and developers.

The long-term implications of this abandoned infrastructure are concerning. Future development efforts will likely face numerous challenges due to the presence of these unmarked and unmanaged utilities. The financial burden of locating and dealing with leftover temporary infrastructure will become an unavoidable part of future construction budgets. Therefore, mandatory locating and documentation of these utilities should be implemented to mitigate these issues.

As we continue to face natural disasters and the need for rapid response infrastructure, it is crucial to address these challenges proactively. By ensuring proper installation, documentation, and removal of temporary utilities, we can minimize the long-term impact on future developments and reduce the financial burden on property owners and developers. ●



Data quality is the core of risk mitigation

By Jen Roney

There's a conversation the energy industry needs to have about data (and data quality), and urgency is growing as producers and adjacent companies adapt to an evolving regulatory landscape.

Why? Data is a critical component of how the industry is regulated and how energy producers analyze efficiencies and plan future projects. If you're attempting to execute in these areas and your data isn't accurate or up to date, you could have grave missteps in your planning. Or worse, you could have more risk exposure than you realize.

"A producer's core competency is in finding oil & gas and operating their assets safely and effectively. That's where their focus rightfully should be. They rely on companies like GDM to focus on data management, which is our core competency," says Brian Hall, president of GDM, Inc.

Trustworthy data is essential for company leaders to make optimal decisions and improve operational efficiency. If you don't have access to a reliable source of in-depth industry data, your ability to protect and grow your company could be significantly impeded.



WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE CONVERSATION ABOUT DATA?

When the topic of data comes up in energy circles, the conversation often lacks nuance, putting producers and other companies that support the energy industry at a disadvantage — and at risk.

Why does data need to be at the centre of these conversations? Because ultimately, if your data is inaccurate, your analysis will be inaccurate.

Data doesn't just affect your internal planning. As time passes, regulatory bodies will continue to ask for more accountability and compliance; some companies will be proactive about it, and some won't. And when it happens, smaller companies will be scrambling.

If you're an environmental or service business supporting these producers, accurate assessments, planning, and costing can help ensure a competitive edge and successful project outcomes.

DATA QUALITY MUST BE AT THE HEART OF BEST PRACTICES.

It's crucial for producers to understand that their decisions can only be as certain as the data they use for analysis.

"We're always cautious when we see companies focusing more on platform functionality and downplaying the need for accurate data at the core," says Hall. "Platforms that generate insights for your business cannot add value unless they base those insights on accurate, up-to-date data."

Companies make financial decisions based on data and then direct resources toward executing their plans based on that data. To ensure the best use of resources, these companies would be wise to leverage the experience of third-party experts to produce the quality data they need.

Accurate data is also critical for mergers and acquisitions, as new ownership usually includes responsibility for all assets, regardless of location or condition. Being able to clearly detail asset data is imperative when these assets change hands.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DATA QUALITY IS LEFT OUT OF THE EQUATION?

"Data is the lifeblood of so many industries. You need to be able to trust in the data and have confidence you can assess and

analyze the data and make decisions," says Hall. "Without that trust, you're gambling."

If you're working from inaccurate data, you could inadvertently funnel company resources into the wrong solutions. Using poor data and executing high-value projects based on that data can be a significant waste of resources and a source of missed opportunities for growth or profit.

"There's a sequential nature to data that can't be left out of the equation," says Hall. "There's a saying that data becomes information, which becomes knowledge, which then becomes wisdom. You don't get to jump to wisdom."

As industry standards evolve, companies must meet expectations for asset data, including assets they've purchased over time. A comprehensive collection of data that has been carefully compiled and tested over time will become more and more valuable as expectations change.

THE IMPACT OF ACCURATE DATA

There have been many instances where accurate data could have helped energy producers prevent everything from small but significant mishaps to critical and expensive incidents.

For example, most industry veterans know how orphan wells are handled if a company goes bankrupt and how those rules have changed over the past few years. As industry regulations evolve to mitigate and reduce these incidents, there will be a growing need for companies to accurately account for their assets and any relevant data.



Ensuring data accuracy is the core of strategic planning and risk mitigation

When the Saskatchewan government implemented a retroactive flowline licensing program, it became clear that companies didn't just need current data but also a complete picture of how assets have changed hands and the life story of those assets.

If there's ever an incident, such as a rupture in the pipeline or spill, you must promptly submit information to the government. Having a trustworthy source of accurate data allows you to respond quickly and appropriately, even when things go wrong.

As an industry, we can work together to increase transparency, accountability, and responsibility throughout the sector. A collective effort can protect companies, communities, and people.

ENTERING A NEW ERA OF DATA WITH AI

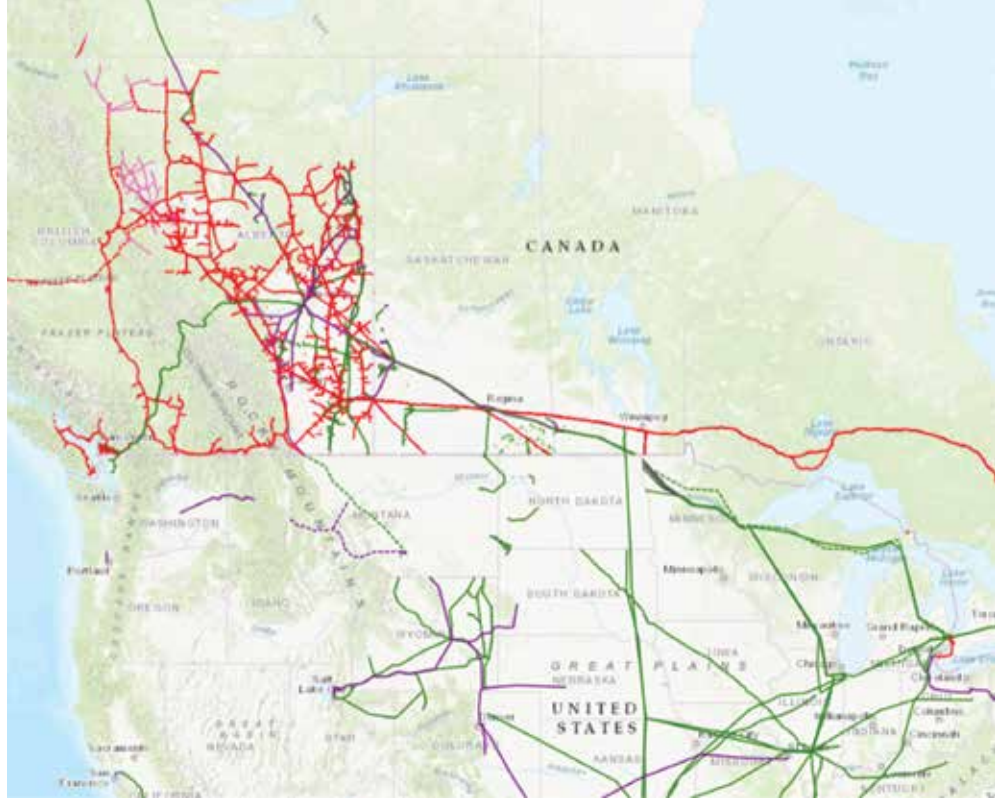
It will be essential for business leaders to understand how AI impacts energy data, especially as the industry races to include AI in its solutions. Data hygiene and a commitment to accurate data that is regularly analyzed, tested, and retested must always remain at the core of any data solution.

"More data doesn't mean better data," says Jennifer Shea, data operations director for GDM, Inc. "Machine learning may be able to predict things basically, statistically, but if the data quality isn't carefully managed from the first step, the insights will be off."

It's vital to recognize that AI enhancements such as predictive analytics are ineffective if the data is inaccurate. While AI seems a popular topic of conversation in the energy industry, company leaders must focus on the practices that deliver optimal outcomes and mitigate risk.

"Despite the buzz about AI, 35 per cent of data professionals say the major initiative their organization will take on in 2024 is implementing stronger governance and security controls, compared to 20 per cent that said integrating AI into business processes," say data security experts at Immuta in its 2024 State of Data Security Report.

There can be no discussion of AI without a deep understanding of the difference between machine learning, predictive analytics, and actual artificial intelligence.



"Regulators are requiring more accountability in many ways, and companies are having to go beyond simply meeting minimum requirements," says Shea. "The landscape is changing, and we need to take deeper dives into assets and have a deeper understanding of it all in order to take accountability."

Most AI solutions don't encompass best practices for data hygiene, data protection, governance, and storage. If you aren't having regular conversations about those topics, your AI solution is likely not offering what you think it is.

AI is used in the energy sector to increase efficiencies and reduce costs in many ways, including predictive maintenance, oil & gas exploration, and demand response management, according to IT and business solutions experts FDM.

There is a place for AI in energy, just like in any industry. However, it doesn't replace accurate data collection, testing, and analysis. Hoping that it will can result in incalculable risk.

PARTNERING WITH THE RIGHT DATA PROVIDER IS VITAL

"Data will find a way to be wrong if you let it. Each time it's handled, there's potential for error. You need a partner that doesn't just collect data, but regularly tests, retests, and challenges it to ensure accuracy," says Hall.

Elevating the conversation around data and a shared commitment to transparency, accuracy, and accountability benefits everyone, from producers to the companies that support them. ●



The critical distinction: Locator certification vs. competency

By Gordon Campbell, Technical Trainer, OQ Evaluator, Aecon Utilities Inc.

In another article, I outlined the need for certification of locators and spelled out how it makes good business sense to offer it as part of a locator's career path. Certification has incredible value in that it demonstrates a basic knowledge and shows that they are serious about the profession.

But in the complex world of underground utility locating, two concepts often come into play: locator certification and locator competency. While these terms are sometimes used interchangeably, they represent distinct aspects of a locator's professional development and capabilities. Understanding the difference between these concepts is crucial for both locators and those who rely on their services.

Certification is a formal recognition awarded to individuals who have demonstrated a specific level of knowledge and skills in a particular field, typically through completing standardized training and passing predetermined assessments or exams.

Competency, on the other hand, is not so straightforward. Competency refers to having the required skills, knowledge, and capabilities to do a particular job or task well. The problem with this simple definition is that it must be very permissive for obvious reasons.

CAPULC, in its Underground Facility Locating and Marking Standard (Version 1.0), has a better definition of competence that considers what I believe to be the most important attribute for professional locators. It states, "An individual's proficiency in undertaking a specific function or set of tasks as characterized by four major components: theoretical knowledge, skill, experience, and behaviour."

LOCATOR CERTIFICATION: THE FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Locator certification is a formal process that serves as an entry point into the field of utility locating. It typically involves:

1. Completing a structured training program;
2. Demonstrating proficiency in using specific types of locating equipment; and
3. Passing written and practical exams to showcase theoretical knowledge and basic skills

Certification is valuable because it:

- Provides a standardized measure of basic knowledge and skills.

- Ensures familiarity with industry best practices and safety protocols.
- Offers a recognized credential that can enhance employability.

However, certification has limitations:

- It's often a one-time event, representing knowledge at a specific point in time.
- It may focus on ideal conditions or simulations rather than real-world complexities.
- It doesn't necessarily reflect ongoing skill development or adaptability.

LOCATOR COMPETENCY: THE ART OF APPLICATION

Locator competency goes beyond certification, encompassing a broader set of skills and attributes. It represents:

1. The ability to use any type of locating equipment safely and accurately.
2. Adaptability to various environments and challenging conditions.
3. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills in complex scenarios.
4. Continuous learning and improvement over time.

Competency is characterized by:

- Practical experience in diverse field conditions.
- The ability to think on one's feet and adapt to unexpected situations.
- Confidence in tackling challenging projects.
- A commitment to ongoing professional development.

Unlike certification, competency is an ongoing process that requires:

- Regular assessment and evaluation.
- Continuous learning and skill refinement.
- Exposure to a wide range of locating scenarios.
- Understanding of new technologies and methodologies.

MERGING THEORY AND PRACTICE

While certification and competency are distinct, they are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they often work together in a locator's career progression:

1. Certification provides the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to enter the field.

2. Initial field experience begins to build competency as theoretical knowledge is applied.
3. Ongoing training and experience continue to enhance both certified knowledge and practical competency.
4. Additional certifications may be pursued to formalize growing competency.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY

Understanding the distinction between certification and competency has important implications:

For Employers:

- Recognize that certification alone may not indicate field readiness.
- Implement competency-based assessment programs such as Operator Qualification (OQ).
- Invest in ongoing training to develop both certified knowledge and practical competency.

For Locators:

- View certification as a starting point, not an end goal.
- Seek diverse field experiences to build competency.
- Embrace lifelong learning to stay current and competent.

For Stakeholders (e.g., utility companies, construction firms):

- Look beyond certifications when evaluating locator qualifications.
- Consider competency-based metrics when assessing locator performance.
- Support industry initiatives that promote both certification and competency development.

CONCLUSION

In the field of utility locating, both certification and competency play crucial roles. Certification provides a necessary foundation of knowledge and standardized skills, while competency represents the practical application and ongoing development of those skills in real-world scenarios.

The most successful locators are those who not only achieve certification but also continuously strive to enhance their competency through experience, adaptability, and lifelong learning. By recognizing and valuing both certification and competency, the locate industry can ensure safer, more accurate, and more efficient locates, ultimately benefiting all stakeholders involved in the prevention of damage to underground infrastructure. ●

Damage Prevention Competency Training Pilot: A case study of supporting workforce development

By Imaan Ladipo, Ashley Lawson, Katie Kapcsos, Jiva Consulting



The underground infrastructure sector, including damage prevention practitioners, is facing multiple challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified several existing trends, and we are still experiencing the consequences. These include experts retiring, lower immigration, and delays in new graduates entering the workforce. Our industry will innovate and adapt to meet these challenges. Still, we will need to be able to attract, retain, and develop technical expertise in a way that is rapid and effective. To address this, a joint industry collaboration is underway that's intended to address part of the demographic challenge faced by damage prevention practitioners within the pipeline sector. Specifically, the initiative looks to build competency (i.e., the combination of knowledge, experience, and expertise an individual needs to be effective in a job function) for practitioners. This is important because a competency system helps individuals become effective in new roles much more quickly. The system can provide a way for both individuals and companies to understand the requirements of job functions and establish what development needs an individual in the job function might have, as well as close any identified gaps in a consistent and systematic way.

The history of this initiative begins with the Australian Pipelines

and Gas Association (APGA). They saw some of the upcoming challenges and proactively developed a formalized Competency System for pipelines (PECS). While the system was initially developed for engineering the staff, the system has crossed international boundaries and been broadened by the recent adaptation, adoption, and use in Canada: The Canadian Pipeline Competency System (CPCS). This effort was initially undertaken by several communities of practice under the (now defunct) Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) and is now managed by a user group with support from Jiva.

The Damage Prevention competencies, part of a broader Canadian Pipeline Competency System, provide a mechanism for understanding competency for damage prevention practitioners. Approximately 30 competencies address key functions that organizations need to have effective damage prevention practices. The competency standards were developed by an industry expert panel and published for broad consultation before finalizing. While the damage prevention competencies were completed several years ago by the CEPA Damage Prevention Community of Practice in collaboration with APGA and Jiva Consulting, implementation of the work has been delayed because of several concurrent factors (e.g., closure of CEPA and the pandemic).

The current project intends to demonstrate one of the ways the



competency system can be used: developing effective, structured, and robust training delivered through multiple courses. The project is a collaborative effort between three pipeline operating companies and Jiva Consulting. It involves developing training and assessment based on one of the approximately 30 competencies developed for damage prevention: unauthorized activities. In addition to leveraging the training for their organizations, the project has been structured to allow the rest of the industry to also access the training course once it's complete. Further, the project structure can be used to ultimately build a consistent, systematic, and wholistic approach to supporting damage prevention professionals – while allowing companies to participate in select topics that line up with their priorities. This is particularly important because it allows each individual course to deliver effective training without sacrificing the effectiveness of the whole set of training courses to work together.

The online course being developed under this initiative will specifically support learners in building competency in the Knowledge element of the Unauthorized Activities Damage Prevention Competency Standard. Learners are provided with a foundational understanding of key concepts related to third-party activities and the risk they pose to underground infrastructure.



The course provides a process overview for how to typically respond to suspected unauthorized activities, gather preliminary information, and understand potential next steps to resolve the situation. A critical element of the course uses the consensus of multiple subject matter experts to provide guidance for determining whether activities are indeed unauthorized – an area that has had significant ambiguity in the past.

The course is an exciting step toward demonstrating one of the many ways the Damage Prevention Competency System can be used to move the industry forward in a practical and tangible way, including in the line locating profession, which is critical to the effort. The course will be rolling out in late 2024 – keep an eye out! ●

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Natural disasters and damage prevention

By Shannon Neufeld, Technical Leader, Damage Prevention, Canada Energy Regulator



Flooded farmland in British Columbia.



Natural disasters are harrowing and can be really frightening when they impact your family, property, and livelihood. The effects of the fires, floods and landslides we've experienced in Canada over the past few years will be felt by those landowners for a long time. These disasters can change contours and topography of the land through erosion, scour and debris left behind, and the drainage that was present before the disaster may not be there anymore.

It's natural for people to want to get to work, clean up the debris, and get everything back to normal as soon as they can, but there are some things that landowners must take into consideration before going into action, and pipeline companies have an obligation to provide you with the information you need to do this work safely.

If you have a pipeline on your property, flooding may have reduced the depth of earth cover over the pipe so that it may no longer be safe to drive across it, even light equipment. Contact the pipeline company to request consent before driving across the pipeline or moving any soil to confirm that it is safe to do so. Pipeline companies are required to provide that information in writing, and it is information that you need to keep yourself and your family, as well as your property safe.

As always, any time that you are replacing fences/fence posts, removing earth cover, adding earth cover or changing/clear-

ing drainage paths near a pipeline (30 meters either side of the pipeline), it is a ground disturbance. When you contact the pipeline company, you not only need to confirm the location of the pipe, but you also need to ensure that the depth of earth cover over the pipe is still adequate.

Across our country, millions of kilometres of buried lines keep us warm, connected, watered, and lit. Before you start any work, make sure you contact your provincial one-call centre to have the buried pipes, cables, and wires located.

CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

Care must be taken when adding soil, such as building a berm, so pipeline company and/or power line company consent is required. A berm changes accessibility for maintenance of a buried infrastructure, but also reduces ground to wire clearance when there is an overhead power line.

If you're hiring a contractor to do some work on your land, make sure they know that there's a federally regulated pipeline on your property and that there are regulations they must follow that include contacting the pipeline company when they're planning the work and prior to starting it.

Visit <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/safety-environment/damage-prevention/index.html> for more information about the CER damage prevention regulations. ●

SETTING UP A TICKET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: Key considerations for locate contractors

By Shane Hart, Competers

As a locate contractor, getting a ticket management system (TMS) in place is essential for streamlining operations, improving coordination, and minimizing the risk of utility damage. Whether handling a few tickets or thousands, the right system can save time, improve accuracy, and enhance safety on job sites. Here's what to consider when setting up a TMS for your business.

1. CHOOSING THE RIGHT SOFTWARE PARTNER

One of the first decisions is selecting the right software provider. A good TMS should be user-friendly, adaptable, and robust. Features like automated workflows, GPS tracking, field data integration, and communication tools are essential. While setting up software might seem intimidating, you don't have to be a programming expert – vendors will guide you through key decisions and customize the system to fit your operations. Find a system which is widely used in your industry by other similar companies sold by a company who understands your needs.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Find a vendor who understands the needs of locate contractors and provides ongoing support.

2. INVOLVING FIELD STAFF FROM THE BEGINNING

Involving someone from field operations, such as a dispatcher or field supervisor, is crucial when implementing a TMS. Their real-world experience helps ensure the system works smoothly on the ground. Field staff can offer insights into tracking on-site progress, managing time-sensitive tickets, and integrating GPS or communication tools.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Getting field staff input early ensures the system is practical and intuitive for those using it daily.

3. ENHANCING EFFICIENCY THROUGH AUTOMATION

A TMS plays a crucial role in driving efficiency by automating many processes. The right system integrates workflows – currently done manually or across different programs – such as ticket assignment, reporting, and job status tracking. This centralization reduces duplication and errors, allowing your team to focus on higher-value tasks. Automation not only saves time but also creates a faster, safer workflow. The right TMS brings everything under one platform, simplifying ticket management and enabling field staff to work more efficiently.

KEY TAKEAWAY: A TMS boosts efficiency by automating tasks and integrating workflows, saving time and reducing errors.

4. SIMPLIFYING COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A well-implemented TMS should simplify communication between your office, field staff, and other stakeholders like utility companies and municipalities. Centralized ticket data enables real-time updates, and automated notifications improve collaboration, reduce delays, and enhance decision-making in the field.

Key Takeaway: A TMS should streamline communication and collaboration, improving project efficiency and reducing delays.

5. ENSURING FLEXIBILITY, SCALABILITY, AND A STAGED ROLLOUT

Your business may grow, and your TMS should grow with it. Ensure the system can handle increased ticket volumes and be customized to meet future needs. Flexibility and scalability prevent costly transitions later, making the system adaptable to both your current and future operations.

Depending on your company size and the contracts you manage, it might be wise to transition into using a TMS in stages. Start by adding a small team that can get familiar with the system. Allow them to iron out any issues before rolling it out across the company. In my experience, a staged rollout makes things smoother and builds confidence, giving your team the chance to learn and refine the process. Jumping in too fast without fully understanding the system can lead to confusion and inefficiency, so taking a phased approach is a smart strategy.

KEY TAKEAWAY: A staged rollout allows your team to ease into the system, ensuring they understand it fully and avoid potential hiccups, while also setting you up for future scalability.

CONCLUSION

Setting up a TMS as a locate contractor involves selecting the right technology, involving field staff in decision-making, and ensuring automation and communication improvements. By choosing a scalable system and staging its implementation, while ensuring proper training and support, you'll boost efficiency and reduce utility damage, creating a smoother, safer workflow for your team. A well-chosen TMS enables your team to focus on their core tasks, reduces errors, and ultimately enhances safety and productivity in the field. ●

Unearthing solutions: Navigating the maze of abandoned infrastructure

By Gordon Campbell, Technical Trainer, OQ Evaluator, Aecon Utilities Inc.



In today's fast-paced world of rapid growth and technological progress, the problem of abandoned infrastructure has become a real concern, presenting us with some tough challenges. At the 2023 CCGA Damage Prevention Symposium held in Quebec City, I was fortunate to be part of a panel discussion that delved into this pressing issue. As a representative of the excavation community, I shared our experiences and hurdles faced in the field. My presentation, titled "Digging for Answers: Guidance for Excavators on Dealing with Abandoned Infrastructure," tackled the unique difficulties we encounter as excavators and explored available advice. My fellow panel members also offered some practical short-term solutions for documenting known abandoned infrastructure. However, the real challenge lies in how we incorporate this information onto maps and deciding on the appropriate actions to take, as well as determining when to remove such data, which brings its own set of complexities.

For my part, I highlighted key advice from the CSA Z247 Damage Prevention standard. The CSA Z247 standard is not just a guideline but a crucial resource for preventing damage to underground infrastructure across Canada, recognized for its comprehensive approach to ensuring safe and effective excavation practices.

The standard states:

"When underground infrastructure that has not been located is encountered during ground disturbance, the excavator shall:

- a) assume the infrastructure is active;
- b) immediately stop the ground disturbance; and
- c) contact the one-call service or all known owners in the vicinity of the ground disturbance.

Note: This includes not-in-service, abandoned, or unlocated underground infrastructure."

This protocol underscores the importance of erring on the side of caution, treating any discovered infrastructure as potentially active. Given these crucial guidelines, it's imperative that we also develop actionable strategies to effectively address these challenges in the field.

However, due to time constraints, the panel couldn't delve into comprehensive solutions. I'll be the first to say, I don't believe there is an easy fix for this problem and the problem is not going to get better anytime soon. Recognizing the need for actionable solutions, I'd like to propose some measures, which can have an immediate and substantial impact:

1) GIS GRADE MAPPING – Give all locators access to GIS grade mapping to significantly enhance their precision and efficiency in the field. Unlike the current asset-based maps, which often reduce locators to guessing games with lines vaguely drawn over street overlays, GIS grade mapping of-


fers a clear, detailed, and accurate representation of underground utilities. The current maps can lead to inefficiencies, increased risks of errors, and even safety hazards due to their lack of detail and accuracy. In contrast, GIS grade mapping equips locators with the exact data needed to identify utility locations quickly and accurately, reducing the time spent on-site and minimizing the risk of damaging existing infrastructure. This shift is not just about upgrading mapping technology; it's about transforming our approach to utility location, ensuring safer, more efficient operations.

2) INCREASED USE OF SUE – Increased use of SUE on projects has become a game changer in our field. The significant value that SUE brings to our projects is well-recognized, but it's worth delving into the specifics. By employing SUE, projects not only see a reduction in unexpected costs due to utility strikes, but there's also a notable improvement in overall safety. As we move forward, the adoption of SUE could redefine our approach to damage prevention.

3) IMPLEMENT CSA S250 – Using CSA S250 to depict installed assets, ensures the highest standard of accuracy in our docu-

mentation. The precise X, Y, Z coordinates of each asset are not just data points; they are crucial for creating a reliable and efficient mapping system. These coordinates allow for precise location tracking, essential in minimizing errors during excavation. Implementing CSA S250 across all projects not only aligns us with industry best practices but also significantly reduces the risk of costly errors and enhances overall safety.

Although these solutions appear straightforward on paper, implementing them can present real-world challenges, including the initial financial investment and the necessity to upgrade GIS systems. In conclusion, tackling the issue of abandoned infrastructure requires both understanding its complexities and implementing practical solutions. While there's no one-size-fits-all answer, the strategies I've outlined provide a solid foundation for safer, more efficient construction practices. I remain committed to exploring and advocating for these solutions, with the hope that we can collectively move toward a future where excavation practices are safer and more reliable. I'm eager to hear your thoughts on these approaches or any other strategies you've found effective. Collaboration and shared expertise are key as we navigate these challenges together. ●



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LOCATOR STORIES

from the field

DOWNTOWN DANGER!

I was scheduled to perform a locate in downtown Calgary on a Saturday morning at 5 a.m. inside a traffic setup. The locate was four city blocks and was on 9th Avenue, which is a major artery through downtown Calgary. Due to the size and complexity of the locate, a second locator was assigned to the job as well. We decided to start from the east and work our way west.

The mood was light, and we felt very comfortable as we were locating in a complete traffic setup that closed three out of the four lanes on 9th Avenue. Not long after we started, we heard quite the commotion going on, including screeching tires, yelling, and objects being hit. We looked up from what we were doing to see pylons, hubcaps, and sparks flying. A drunk driver came through the barricades and jumped over the curb onto the sidewalk, hitting whatever was in his path.

My coworker and I looked at each other, and you could tell we were thinking the same thing: we were locating in that exact spot 20 seconds prior to this happening. We often have a false sense of security while working in a traffic setup, but in all reality, anything can still happen. This time it was a drunk driver, next time it could be someone having medical issues – you never know. When working out on roadways, traffic setup or not, be aware of what is going on around you at all times, and never let your guard down. I was very thankful I was able to go home to my family that day.

– Alberta

WHERE'S THE LIONS?

I had to work late the other day, and when I got home Grace approached me and told me, "Mom said you had to work late because you were saving lives."

I told her that, yes, in a way I'm keeping people safe.

She asked, "Safe from what?"

I told her that I was making sure they didn't get hurt by marking out underground lines. I was keeping the lines safe and the people safe.

She was puzzled but happy with this response, and I thought nothing more of it.

The next day after work, Grace asked me if she could see a picture of the underground lines. I said of course and showed her a picture of three exposed cables lying in an open excavation.

Unimpressed, she looked at me and announced, "But Dad, I don't see any lions."

– Grande Prairie, Alberta



You know it's going to be a good day when...

A RAT REMEMBERED AS CHESTER

A line locating crew was working an eerie nightshift, deep in the belly of Vancouver. Their headlamps and the streetlights were the only glow in sight. They could barely see their paint as it sprayed. As she walked along, one of the crew members suddenly felt something under her foot. "Squish." Startled, she turned her headlamp to the ground. The other crew member became horrendously appalled at the alarming noise as she suddenly ran toward him.

"It's a rat, Donovan! I stepped on a rat!", she screamed, soaring onto the curb. Sighing, the other crew member slowly trudged towards the source of the alarm, pointing his headlamp at the ground. He stopped to inspect the small tuft of fur.

"It's dead, Emily. You stepped on a dead rat," he replied. The crew member pondered for a moment at the new information before replying, "We'll call him Chester."

– Emily & Steve, British Columbia



PORTA-POTTY MISHAP

As we all know, working on construction and remote work sites quite often includes using portable toilets, also known as porta potties. I was on a private locate job with my crewleader and needed to use the facilities. He went ahead working as I took my “break”. When you are in full set of coveralls this break is like changing in an airplane bathroom. When I came out, my crewleader was there laughing at me.

“What happened?” he said. I had walked out and was rolling up my coveralls.

“Let’s just say it’s me - 0 and porta potty - 1. Everything was going smoothly until I tried to get my coveralls back on and the arms of my coveralls fell in the toilet...well they are no longer wearable! Try explaining that one to the client! Luckily, this is why I now bring an extra pair to work!

– Alberta



SNAKE VS. MAN

Just as everyone might be aware, even the biggest toughest guy is afraid of something. Well, I might not be the biggest or toughest guy, but I most certainly dislike snakes! As a locator, we get calls to travel wherever the locate might be, in this case, Saskatchewan.

As anyone from Saskatchewan knows, snakes are a daily occurrence in many areas. So, imagine how excited I was when we arrived in Saskatchewan to help on a project and find out there are snakes. Each day, as I walked through the crops, I jumped and screamed at anything

moving over the ground, even mice. About a week in, my guard finally started to come down. We were walking, and walking and walking. We walked right into an area and there was a snake, looking at me and hissing. I instantly screamed and hightailed it back to the truck! In my hasty retreat, I managed to drop my phone. Bribing my assistant didn’t work, so we waited a little while. Finally, I got brave enough to walk back to the field. I emailed my wife to call my phone, but she didn’t answer –, must have been busy. Then I realized, hey, I had my satellite phone! I called as I walked, and we found the phone and no snake. When my wife called me, I had to explain the story while my assistant was laughing so hard he had tears in his eyes. I don’t think I will ever live that one down!

– Regina, SK



PROTECTED AREA BOUNDARIES FOR RISK MITIGATION

In our effort to make solutions solving industry needs, GDM's Converge map now includes the ability to identify Protected Areas and their boundaries via map layers, making it easier to determine which assets fall within these areas gives users the ability to take the necessary precautions to mitigate risk. Reach out to GDM Inc. for more information or to schedule a demo. www.gdm-inc.com/converge



VIVAX METROTECH

FLO Dashboard is our new add-on to the VM Map Cloud. It will allow you to monitor your locate technician's performance at a quick glance. Set your own filters like preferred frequencies, min and max mA, depth and many more. Please feel free to reach out to us or your local distributor for more information and a demo. www.vivax-metrotech.ca

ABADATA

AbaData, a leading innovator in energy software solutions, is excited to announce the launch of AbaData Maps 3.0, the latest version of our flagship product, formerly known as AbaData Core 2.0. AbaData Maps 3.0 empowers users with performance updates and enhanced features, making it quicker, smarter, and more intuitive than ever before. Please note that AbaData Core 2.0 version will soon no longer be updated making it important for those that are utilizing it to switch to AbaData Maps 3.0. Reach out to AbaData for more information or to schedule a demo. <https://abadata.ca/>



2025-2026 CONFERENCES & EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11-13, 2025

ORCGA Damage Prevention Symposium
Ottawa, ON

<https://orcga.com/2025-damage-prevention-symposium/>

MARCH 11-13, 2025

2025 SARM Annual Convention and Trade Show
Saskatoon, SK

<https://sarm.ca/events/annual-convention-and-trade-show/>

MARCH 12-14, 2025

2025 Info-Excavation Annual Symposium
Trois-Rivières, QC

<https://congres.info-ex.com/>

MARCH 17-19, 2025

Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention 2025
Edmonton, AB

<https://rmalberta.com/rma-conventions/spring-convention/>

APRIL 2025

Dig Safe Month – National

APRIL 7-10, 2025

CGA Conference & Expo 2025
Orlando, FL

<https://www.cgaconference.com/>

APRIL 14-15, 2025

2025 Utility Safety Conference
Edmonton, AB

<https://utilitiesafety.ca/events/safety-conference-2025/>

APRIL 21-27, 2025

Locator Safety & Appreciation Week
Virtual

APRIL 28-MAY 2, 2025

Energy Safety Conference – TBA

<https://www.energysafetycanada.com/News-Events/Conference>

MAY 5-10, 2025

CCOHS Safety & Health Week
Virtual

<https://www.ccohs.ca/events/safety-and-health-week/>

MAY 18-24, 2025

National Public Works Week
Virtual

JUNE 10-12, 2025

Global Energy Show Canada 2025 Exhibition & Conference
Calgary, AB

<https://www.globalenergyshow.com/>

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2025

Oil Sands Expo

Fort McMurray, AB

<https://oilsandsexpo.com/>

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2025

Global Damage Prevention Summit
Dallas, TX

<https://actsnowinc.com/globaldps>

NOVEMBER 3-6, 2025

**Canadian Common Ground Alliance 2025
Damage Prevention Symposium**

Halifax, NS

<https://www.canadiancga.com/Annual-Symposium>

MAY 13-14, 2026

Peace Region Energy Show

Grande Prairie, AB

www.grandeprairiechamber.com/pres/

2025-2026

Conferences & Events – To Be Determined

Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Show

Weyburn, SK

<https://www.oilshow.ca/>

EAPUOC Safety Seminar & Trade Show

Sherwood Park, AB

<https://www.eapuoc.com/>

**Health and Safety Professionals Canada
Professional Development Conference**

TBD

<https://www.csse.org>

PWABC & BCMSA Joint Annual Conference & Trade Show
TBD

(British Columbia Municipal Safety Association and Public
Works Association of British Columbia

<https://www.bcmsa.ca/events/>

<https://pwabc.ca/training-and-events/>

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