

IOWA 811

ONE CALL

The Official Newsletter of Iowa One Call

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Excavator

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WHAT'S UP BELOW



Iowa One Call's Design Request System Setting a New Standard in Damage Prevention

Planning for damage prevention is crucial to preventing damage and safeguarding lives, health and essential services. What better place to prepare for damage prevention than during the actual planning phase of a project? It seems counterintuitive to consider anything else, yet there is an exemption to some state one call codes that excludes surveying and design engineering activities from being defined as "legal excavations" (i.e.: activities that require prior notice to the state's one call system). Since the inception of the one call industry, the underground facilities landscape has changed dramatically, the expansion of which continues to grow exponentially. Today's vast network of underground water, sewer, communications, gas and electric infrastructure demands far greater damage prevention planning measures than what was necessary more than two decades ago when many state one call codes were enacted. More than ever before, planning and preparation are essential to safeguarding the vital underground facilities infrastructure.

Preventing damage to underground facilities is the fundamental reason why the one call industry exists. Every state maintains and operates a one call notification system, of which the processes, requirements and laws are generally consistent between states. During the legislative phase when states began drafting what would become their mandated one call requirements - in Iowa that was back in 1992 - many states adopted similar statutory exceptions, one of which exempted certain activities involved in surveying and design engineering practices. Today, there are only eleven states that do not provide design locates notices (locating and marking services for surveying and design engineering projects). Iowa's Design Request System was first implemented in 2007 and has since undergone several revisions to accommodate both the design/surveying community and underground facility operators/locators. Iowa One Call, like many state one call organizations, chose not to seek legislation to mandate regulation of their Design Request System, instead relying on the voluntary support and participation of Iowa's underground facility member operators and design/surveying community.



The implementation of a purely voluntary design request systems can be effective, but some states have elected to enact legislative mandates requiring full participation by underground facility operators and the design/surveyor communities; one reason is due to the lack of support by locators. A trend among some locators is to put less emphasis/priority on design locate notices than on regular locate notices. Iowa still considers a voluntary approach to be a viable alternative to legislation. Key to implementing a successful design request system is the understanding between underground facility operators and the design community that their collaborative efforts are in the best interest of everyone. A properly implemented design request system allows designers to identify underground facility conflicts and then, in many instances, design around the conflicting facilities, the results of which can be significantly greater efficiency and, in many cases, greater public safety.

When a city designs the route of a new or expanded sewer system, any underground facilities that are in the way of the planned route may have to be moved at the expense of the facility operator. The expense to move and reroute a major section of underground infrastructure could cost the operator hundreds of thousands of dollars. With the right information at hand, however, the sewer project could potentially be designed around the conflicting facilities. This is a perfect example of why a properly implemented design request system is so important. Of course, there's the safety factor and the ever-present risks associated with coming in contact with potentially hazardous facilities. This is why design locates should be executed with every bit as much emphasis and priority as any other locate. There is no lesser degree of safety, no lesser importance associated with a design locate intended for damage prevention planning purposes than with a regular locate intended for damage prevention during an excavation. To think otherwise is fundamentally incorrect.

In order to achieve effective damage prevention, effective damage prevention standards must be applied and adhered to. The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is the national arm of the "811 dig safe" industry. The CGA Recommended Best Practices are observed throughout the one call industry and utilized by many states as the model for legislating one call requirements. Iowa One Call promotes and embraces the CGA Best Practices, one of which is "BP 3-15," which recommends that all state one call centers accept design locate notices. The degree to how effective a tool is depends on how it is used. Iowa One Call has developed a powerful tool with its Design Request System that, when used properly, will advance overall damage prevention practices in Iowa.

To learn more about Iowa One Call's two part Design Request System please **CLICK HERE**.

CONTACTS

THE LAW (IOWA CODE, CHAPTER 480)

ADVERTISING

[DESIGN REQUEST SYSTEM \(FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGNERS/ENGINEERS\)](#)

"TICKET CHECK" ELECTRONIC
POSITIVE RESPONSE SYSTEM

🔍 TICKET SEARCH

Design Request System (DRS)

To register for Iowa One Call's Design Request system go to <http://ia.itic.occinc.com>, click **REGISTER NOW** and choose the **Design Request System** option.



MOCK LINE STRIKE

A FIRST IN IOWA

A mock line strike was successfully carried out on July 26 in Melbourne Iowa. The Iowa Pipeline Association (IPA) partnered with Enertech and the Land Improvement Contractor Association (LICA) farm to implement the first Mock Line Strike in Iowa. Enertech has conducted this event more than 60 times across the country in 2017.

Ben Booth of Iowa One Call moderated the event for the live audience of over 125 attendees. Volunteers from Northern Natural Gas, USIC and Marshall County emergency crews assisted in the implementation. The viewers consisted of professional excavators, farmers and emergency response teams. With natural gas transmission lines often passing through rural areas and farm fields, it was an imperative message for the crowd to hear.



The DIRT 2016 Annual Report shows 1,270 damages to natural gas lines were reported in Iowa in 2016, up from 1,160 reported in 2015. The explosive potential of natural gas (other resources transmitted through pipelines) creates a dangerous situation for the excavator and local community when a pipeline is punctured.



The simulation was set up to show how to correctly prepare for and implement an excavation, specifically in the state of Iowa. While this process may be redundant to those who utilize the service, it should never be disregarded. Iowa law requires a pipeline operator be on site if an excavation is occurring within 25 feet of a natural gas transmission line. It should also

be noted that pipeline markers do not provide the exact location. Pipeline markers, spray paint and flags all provide the approximate location of the underground facility.

During the “wrong way” to conduct an excavation, the excavator uses a spotter to attempt to line up the bucket of the backhoe with the natural gas pipeline markers. This is a fundamental mistake. During the event, the backhoe operator proceeds with the alignment provided by his counterpart. Not long after breaking ground he encounters the worst possible situation: rupturing the natural gas pipeline. If this were to happen in real life, the operator should immediately power down the equipment as it is an ignition source for the escaping gas. Natural gas is lighter than air, causing it to rise as it escapes. After shutting the machine off, the operator, and everyone in the surrounding area should head upwind, getting as far away as possible from the ruptured pipeline.



The next step is to contact 911. Emergency crews, upon arrival, will displace the natural gas in the air with a wall of water. The pipeline operators should also be notified promptly so they can completely shut off the nearby valves. Multiple hours may pass before the proper parties can be notified and arrive on the scene to control a pipeline strike. It is important to inform those nearby to evacuate as an extra measure of safety. An event like a pipeline hit can escalate without warning. The good news is these situations are avoidable.

The One Call system is a fast, free service that reduces high-risk incidents by coordinating underground facility locates. Knowing what’s below is the first step to a successful, safe excavation. Always remember to plan, communicate and collaborate with all stakeholder groups when you plan to break ground. One missed or ignored step in the process has high-risk potential.

You Tube



To watch a recap of the mock line strike event visit the [Iowa One Call YouTube channel](#).



IOWA STATE FAIR

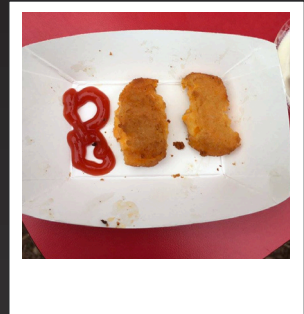
It was a record-setting year for the Iowa State Fair! The 11-day event ran from August 10-20 and saw an estimated attendance of 1,130,071, breaking the previous record from 2015 of 1,117,398 fairgoers.

The immense crowds kept Iowa One Call occupied at the booth in the Varied Industries Building for the entirety of the Fair. The first Friday of the Fair was August 11, or 8-1-1 day. Each year, one call systems around the country use this opportunity to promote the “call before you dig” message. Iowa One Call spent the day spinning a prize wheel with those who stopped by the booth. Hundreds of water bottles, cinch bags, t-shirts, yardsticks and miniature Gabby the Groundhog dolls were handed out. In addition to the prize wheel, Ben Booth, manager of public relations and communications, joined MidAmerican Energy Company to make a video to raise awareness about Iowa One Call and 8-1-1 day. Ben discussed the reason for the 8-1-1 day promotion: protecting underground facilities. All underground utility operators, including MidAmerican Energy, have a strong focus on keeping their infrastructure intact. As you know, a call to 8-1-1 assures the underground facilities are located and marked according to the APWA uniform color code.



FRIED FOOD PHOTO CONTEST

It's no secret that the Fair thrives on deep-fried food, and many of these items are on a stick or in circular form. This year, Iowa One Call introduced a photo contest for the Fair. To enter, fairgoers had to arrange food items to spell out 8-1-1 and post it to a social media account using #iowaonecall. We received some very creative posts, and winners were selected daily.

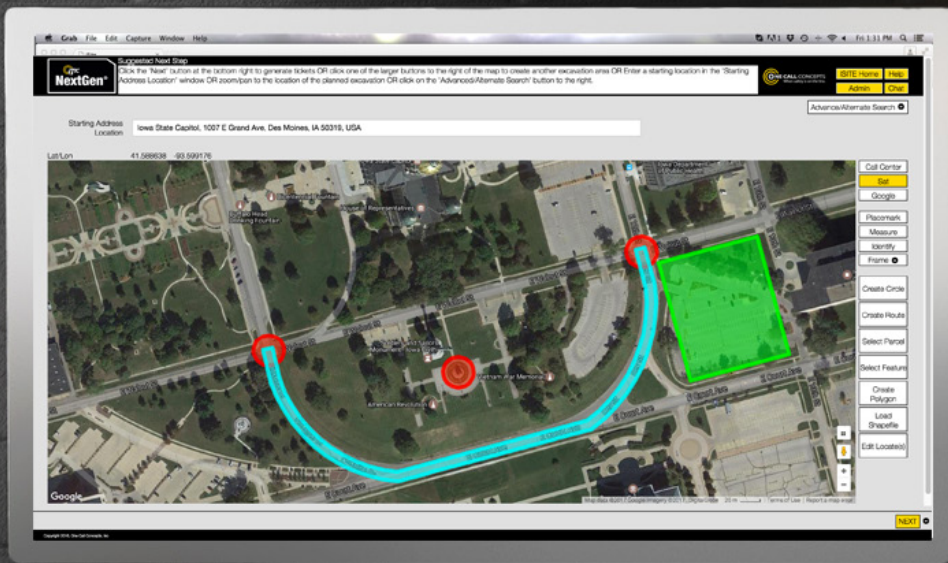


Having a presence at the Iowa State Fair provides an opportunity unlike any other to have quality conversations with those who are familiar with the one call system and those who are encountering it for the first time. Valuable questions and concerns were addressed throughout the Fair. Volunteers from a variety of stakeholder groups graciously assisted in the booth to promote damage prevention. **Thank you to all of our volunteers!**





ITIC NEXTGEN IS **NOW AVAILABLE!**



We think you'll like the new workflow and features built into NextGen. Find out for yourself! This product is still in development, and we welcome any feedback.

If you have any problems or questions, please email us at iaload@occinc.com

Some of the New Features Include:

- Unlimited Tickets per Session
- Precision Mapping Tools
- Customized Group Ticketing
- Tutorial Videos
- Quickstart Manual
- Smart Auto-Fill Fields
- Live Chat Support



FALL PLANTING

The warmer temperatures are likely to extend the digging season. The good news is planting in the fall offers great advantages compared to planting in the springtime. Let's take a look at how you can capitalize on the warmer fall weather as you consider updating your landscaping.

AUTUMN ADVANTAGE

Many consider the springtime to be the best time of the year for outdoor home improvement, specifically landscaping. The snow is melting, the temperatures are rising and the April showers are coming down. While the temperatures are rising above ground, there is plenty of thawing left to do underground. After a long cold winter, the soil is not primed for excavation or allowing plants to take root. In the fall, the soil benefits from the warm summer weather. The warmer soil enables the plants to prosper by establishing firm roots into the early portion of winter. There is typically less rain in the fall, providing more days to be outdoors and complete the updates. Plus, many garden centers offer hefty discounts on plants during this time of year!



PLANNING PROCESS

There is plenty to plan in a landscaping upgrade. Once you have established the type of plants, the layout and selected a time to complete the project it's time to dial 8-1-1. What is 8-1-1? Iowa law requires at least 48-hour notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays) prior to excavation. Yes, this includes the "minor" projects such as planting, building a new deck or patio, installing a mailbox or anything else that will disturb the earth. By dialing 8-1-1, you will be connected to the statewide call center. While on the short phone call, you will provide information about your project including the type of work to be completed, the location of the excavation on the property, the address, the nearest intersection and contact information. The call center then notifies any facility operators with infrastructure near your proposed excavation site. The operators have 48-hours (again, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays) to mark the area with spray paint and flags. These markings provide the approximate location of gas, water, electric and communications lines. If your project is near these markings, you should use a shovel to hand dig, being diligent to not damage any facilities. Locators will know exactly where to go if you white line the area where you will dig. To white line means to use white spray paint or flags to outline the intended digging range. Making a notice and having your underground facilities located is a free service.



TIME TO DIG

Now that you've determined what you'll plant, the layout and made a notice to Iowa One Call, you're ready to put that shovel in the ground. Remember, respect the paint and flag markings, hand digging to expose the underground facility if you are on 18 inches of either side of the marking. Safe digging is essential to preventing damages and injuries. Go make that yard look great!

IN THE NEWS



Local Excavation and Safety News From Around the Web



Encouraging Pipeline Repairs Should be Bipartisan

nondoc.com

Despite 1.2 million gallons of spilled oil sounding like a huge number, the total number of gallons of oil produced in Oklahoma from 2014 to 2016 was 19.2 billion. That means less than 1 percent of 1 percent of oil produced in Oklahoma was spilled over that three-year period. But with 42 gallons in a barrel of oil, it also means an average of about 9,500 barrels ... [\[more\]](#)

Colorado Outlines New Pipeline Rules After Fatal Explosion

apnews.com

Colorado regulators made public a rough outline Wednesday for new rules for oil and gas pipelines after a fatal house explosion blamed on a natural gas leak ... [\[more\]](#)

IOWA ONE CALL RECEIVES CUSTOM PAINTED SHOVEL

One Call Concepts commissioned Robert "Nub" Collard, painter of both 811 vehicles, to custom paint 811 shovels for all OCC-operated notification centers. The commemorative shovel for Iowa One Call was a gift to display OCC's appreciation for their clients!



IOWA 811
ONE CALL SM



www.IOWAONECALL.com

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