

IOWA 811

ONE CALL<sup>SM</sup>

The Official Newsletter of Iowa One Call

Vol. 30, No. 4

# Excavator

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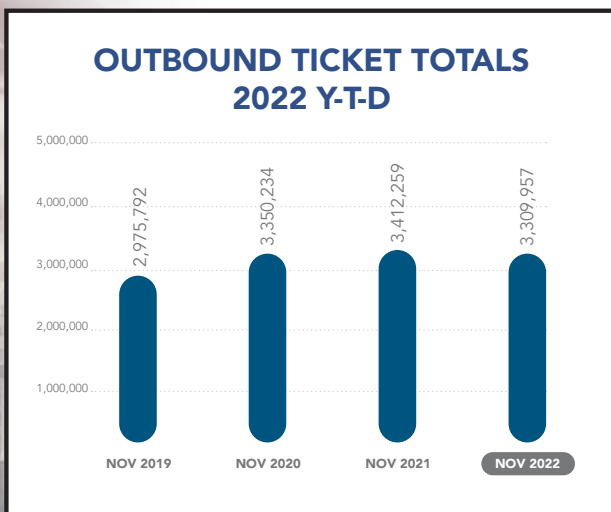
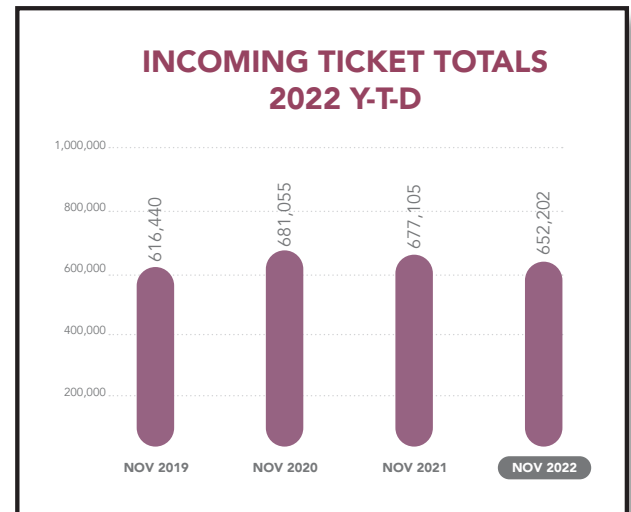
# WHAT'S UP BELOW



## 2022 TRENDS AND CHANGES

Nationally, the ongoing overall construction boom continued throughout 2022, but faced many hurdles as the industry was hammered with supply chain issues that caused momentous problems. These problems included lumber/material shortages, escalating material costs, labor shortages, and interrupted cash flow. Through all the adversity, the construction industry has managed to stay ahead of the post-pandemic fallout that continues to impact most industries – some more negatively than others. Tracking data collected at the Iowa One Call notification center through November 2022 reflects a slightly diminished trend in excavation notices over the previous two years, but still well ahead of pre-pandemic trend.

Through November 2022, the notification center has received 652,202 excavation notices – down 3.6 percent from the same time period in 2021 and down 4 percent from the same period in 2020, when the center received 677,105 and 681,055 excavation notices respectively. Roughly half of these decreases in 2021 and 2022 are due to a decrease in homeowner notices, which correlates with the spike of homeowner notices seen in 2020 when the pandemic-driven “work-at-home” shift became the norm. With roughly 10 percent of the aggregate number of notices received annually, the number of homeowner notices in 2022 seem to have normalized. Overall, the total notices received through November 2022 reflect a near 6 percent increase over the same period in “pre-pandemic” 2019, when the center received 616,440 notices.



Each excavation notice received by the notification center generates an average of six locate notices being sent to Iowa underground facility operators (“outgoing transmissions”). There were 3,309,957 outgoing transmissions through November 2022, down only slightly from the 3,412,259 in 2021 and 3,350,234 in 2020. During the same period in 2019, outgoing transmissions totaled 2,975,721. Three years ago, Iowa One Call was reporting that the number of outgoing transmissions was nearing the three-million threshold. Total outgoing transmissions in 2021 was 3.6 million and 2022 – at the time of this writing – is on track to hit just under 3.5 million. In three years, the “three-million threshold” has been long surpassed with a new 4-million threshold on the horizon. All indicators show the demand for underground facility locate markings is not going to subside anytime soon – and perhaps never will.

With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by Congress in late 2021, there's a whole lot of construction and excavation work to be done in the very near future. The bill approves spending \$1 trillion for new construction projects, including highway, bridge, road, water/sewer, broadband, and energy infrastructure construction, and nearly all of these projects will require underground facility locating and marking services. Also in 2021, Iowa's Governor Reynolds approved spending \$200 million for expanding the rural broadband infrastructure – a significant portion of which will be placed underground, demanding widespread locating and marking services.

Looking at this trend, one can better understand the issues and dilemmas resulting in – and caused by – locating delays. As the demand for locating and marking services increases, so does the burden placed on underground facility operators to perform on-time locates. However, the failure to do so places a burden on excavators as they must deal with their own deadlines and time constraints. There is no clear answer or current procedure to effectively mitigate this industry-wide problem. The topic of legislating new requirements is often cited as a potential solution, but there isn't any model or process currently in place to embrace as a standard or even a general reference.



For example, the option to seek legislation to mandate a longer required-notice period presents multiple questions and challenges. How long should excavators be required to wait until they can begin their work, and how does this impact their on-time performance, equipment, and personnel downtime, bidding, etc.? What is the optimal time needed to mitigate locating delays, and is it reasonable to assume

that one or perhaps two additional days would solve the problem? Is it reasonable to assume the solution is to increase the locating workforce, and is there even an adequate available workforce to hire new personnel from? Is the growing demand and cost to maintain an adequate locating workforce necessarily the burden of the operator, or should excavators share in the costs? Unanswered questions and growing frustrations don't help resolve the problem of locating delays, yet the same ineffective, wasteful, and even abusive practices continue to negatively compound the situation.

There are a number of practices and legal requirements routinely overlooked by stakeholders that directly and indirectly cause locating delays. Excavators and operators/locators must establish and adhere to practices that meet the legal requirements mandated in Iowa Code chapter 480, as well as the established industry best practices. When used properly, the following list of requirements and best practices can help to reduce some of the constraints that lead to locating delays:

**“ There are a number of practices and legal requirements routinely overlooked by stakeholders that directly and indirectly cause locating delays. ”**

- ### Excavators
- Preserve the locate markings at all times throughout the excavation (required)
  - Establish suitable reference points if the markings will be destroyed (required)
  - Preserve the markings before the excavation begins if the excavation is

- ### Operators/Locators
- Complete the locating and marking process within the required 48-hour period (required)
  - Provide the locating and marking status via the electronic positive response system within the required 48-hour period (required)

## Excavators (continued)

- delayed after the markings have been applied (required)
- Request “refresh” markings only after excavation has begun, and when reasonable efforts to maintain the markings are not sufficient – markings are required to last a minimum of five working days on non-permanent surfaces and ten working days on permanent surfaces (required)
- Premark the planned area of excavation with white paint, flags, or stakes – “white-lining” (required)
- Provide the required descriptive location information on every notice (required)
- Refrain from “over-mapping” the planned excavation area – use clear, precise information (required)
- Refrain from making notices too far in advance when excavation is not immediately imminent (best practice)
- Refrain from “over notification” when the requested area is larger than what can reasonably be accomplished within the 20-day notice (best practice)
- Check/verify the locate status via the electronic positive response system prior to excavating (best practice)
- Utilize Iowa One Call’s electronic Joint Meet ticket for large-scale excavation projects that will benefit from on-site communications/meetings with locators (best practice)
- Utilize Iowa One Call’s NextGen online ticketing and mapping system to complete and submit notices (best practice)
- Utilize the NextGen mapping system tools to provide clear, precise, and detailed mapping of the planned area of excavation – which may eliminate the need to white-line (best practice)
- When applicable, use the Iowa One Call Dynamic Start Time option to delay the excavation start date (best practice)

## Operators/Locators (continued)



- Understand that notices cannot be “closed” – notices are open for 20 calendar days (required)
- Must identify/mark multiple underground facilities such as three-phase electric (required)
- Understand the status codes:
  - Only “marked” and “clear” can complete the operator’s locating/marketing requirements unless otherwise agreed by the operator and the excavator (required)
  - Any status code other than “marked” and “clear” will require the operator/locator to contact the excavator to coordinate any necessary actions or alternative arrangements/agreements (required)
  - “Not marked, inadequate information” can be used if the excavator fails to provide the required information and/or white-lining, or if the information is not clear or it is inconsistent – at which time the locator must contact the excavator to coordinate the necessary arrangements, which may delay the locating and marking process (required)
  - The operator is responsible for maintaining access to the operator’s underground facilities so the required locating and marking can be completed with minimal interruptions to the excavator (required)
  - “Agreed to marking schedule” can only be used when an agreement exists between the operator and the excavator. Abuse of this status code is subject to the established civil penalties (required)
- Locators should exchange contact information with excavators and encourage two-way communications (best practice)
- Locators should establish additional/alternative contact information for excavators when practical (best practice)
- Locators should make excavators aware of any secondary or private facilities if the

Article continues >>

Until there is a method or process put in place to effectively reduce locating delays, the best course of action is to adhere to the established laws/requirements and industry best practices, utilize all available tools, and build the most efficient channels of communication between excavators, locators, and all stakeholders. The planning process for every excavation should include a communications plan that outlines the best channels for connecting with excavators and operators/locators, including a contingency plan for dealing with locating delays.

The Iowa Attorney General's Office has established a formal online complaint process that allows stakeholders to submit concerns/complaints, along with proper documentation – e.g., photos (preferably time-coded), written documentation, including time-coded status data (e.g., Iowa One Call positive response tracking data), recorded communications (e.g., voicemail, email, etc.), and other documentation that can help explain/verify the issues within the complaint. Click [HERE](#) to access the Iowa Attorney General's online complaints portal.



***Iowa One Call wishes everyone a safe and productive 2023. Dig safe!***



## **EXCAVATION SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM (ESAP) 2023**

There will be 13 in-person meetings hosted throughout the state of Iowa in January and the first part of February. To the guests who prefer the convenience of virtual meetings from the office, Iowa One Call is offering three meetings in February via Zoom — similar to the 2022 program.

The 2023 program will feature important information about the rules, regulations, and requirements of the “Iowa One Call law,” an overview of damage prevention best practices, and an update on the latest one call center tools and processes that excavators/contractors will not want to miss out on.

Lunch will be provided at the in-person meetings and prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of every in-person and virtual meeting. To register, visit the [ESAP webpage](#) and select your desired location.

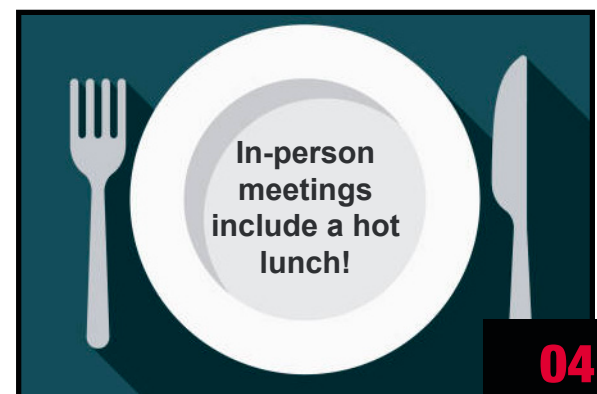
[Register today on the iowaonecall.com!](#)

### **2023 PROGRAM TOPICS**

- Important information about the rules, regulations, and requirements of the “Iowa One Call Law”
- IOC system updates and new programs
- Overview of damage prevention best practices
- Communication and teamwork by all parties

### **IN-PERSON ESAP MEETINGS**

Iowa One Call looks forward to meeting new faces, reconnecting with contractors/excavators, and educating Iowans on the importance of damage prevention while



emphasizing the significance of working together throughout the entire excavation process.

Iowa One Call strongly encourages you and your coworkers to attend the meetings in 2023. **All events are free, and the in-person meetings come with a hot lunch!**

Registration is open! Visit the ESAP page at [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com) and select your desired location to register.

## VIRTUAL ESAP WEBINARS

Can't make it to an in-person ESAP meeting? In February, we will also be hosting three virtual meetings via Zoom. These events are free and will conclude with prizes being awarded.

### Using Q&A in Zoom

At the end of each presentation, a Q&A session will be opened, and attendees are given the opportunity to type in questions for the host using the Zoom Q&A function. The questions will be read aloud and followed by a descriptive answer. If an attendee's question is not answered live, an email will be sent to them with their question and an answer. Following each webinar, the questions and answers are posted directly to the Iowa One Call website for the public's viewing.

### Recording via Zoom

Another advantage to using the Zoom platform is the ability to record the entire presentation. This will allow any interested parties to obtain a YouTube link to the presentation if they cannot attend one of the webinars and/or plan to use the video presentation as a training resource for their own employees.

Visit the [ESAP page on the Iowa One Call website](#) to register for a virtual meeting today!

## ESAP 2023 Schedule

- January 3rd – Council Bluffs (Holiday Inn Council Bluffs @ Ameristar)
- January 4th – Sioux City (Country Celebrations Event Center)
- January 5th – Spencer (Clay County Fair & Events Center)
- January 10th – Dubuque (Grand River Center)
- January 11th – Bettendorf (Waterfront Convention Center)
- January 12th – Burlington (Pzazz Resort Hotel)
- January 17th – Cedar Rapids (The Hotel at Kirkwood Center)
- January 18th – Riverside (Riverside Casino & Golf Resort)
- January 19th – Waterloo (Courtyard by Marriott Waterloo Cedar Falls)
- January 24th – Decorah (Hotel Winneshiek)
- January 26th – Mason City (Music Man Square)
- January 31st – Ames (Gateway Hotel & Conference Center)
- February 2nd – Johnston (Stoney Creek Inn)

**February 7th, 9th, 14th - ZOOM Virtual Meetings**

# TO REGISTER FOR THE 2023 EXCAVATION SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM VISIT

[IOWAONECALL.COM](https://IOWAONECALL.COM)

For any questions related to the ESAP 2023 meetings, you may contact Tyler Jass at [tylerjass@netins.net](mailto:tylerjass@netins.net) or 515-577-2368.

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## 2023 ESAP Meetings

Registration now open!

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

The 2023 program will feature important information about the rules, regulations and requirements of the "Iowa One Call law," an overview of damage prevention best practices, and an update on the latest one call center tools and processes.

- The meetings are FREE!
- In-Person and Online options this year
- Lunch is provided at the in-person meetings

# IOWA 811 ONE CALL SM

Jan 03 ♥

## Excavation Safety Awareness Program (Tuesday, Jan 3, 2023)

[Ticket sales end soon](#)

Free

[Reserve a spot](#)

Each year Iowa One Call updates excavators, locators and facility operators on one call requirements. This ESAP meeting will be in-person.

By [Iowa One Call](#) 67 followers [Follow](#)

### When and where

<b>Date and time</b> Tue, January 3, 2023, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM CST	<b>Location</b> Holiday Inn Council Bluffs @ Ameristar 2202 River Rd Council Bluffs, IA 51501
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[Hide map](#)

# ZOOM

In conjunction with the in-person meetings, Iowa One Call will host six virtual meetings via the Zoom platform. Below is some helpful information on setting up and using the Zoom program:

## How to Download Zoom

If you have not used Zoom before, you will need to download the Zoom application onto your device. The Zoom application can be used on any computer, mobile device or tablet. To see a step-by-step guide on how to download Zoom onto your device, check out this video tutorial:



Visit <https://youtu.be/EcpSMI5tu3Y> or click the image above to view the video on YouTube.

## How to Join Your ESAP Zoom Webinar

Once you have downloaded the Zoom application, you will be able to join your selected Zoom webinar. On the day of your scheduled Zoom webinar, click on the Zoom link that was sent to you via email. The Zoom application will open and you will be prompted to enter your name and email address to join.



### Important Note Before Joining the Zoom Webinar

Unless you have a strong wireless broadband connection, Iowa One Call recommends using a physical internet connection via Ethernet connectivity, as this will allow for higher quality viewing of the Zoom presentations.

## Zoom Attendee Functions

As an attendee, there are three functions that will be displayed at the bottom of your Zoom window. Attendees can submit questions in Q&A, virtually raise their hand and send messages using the chat function. The two functions that attendees will use on our ESAP 2022 Zoom webinar will be typing questions in the Q&A message box and using the "raise hand" function if your name is called as a prize winner.



## Q&A:

The Q&A feature in a Zoom webinar allows attendees to ask questions during the webinar and for the host to answer questions live. During the Q&A segment of the presentation, click on the “Q&A” button to enter in your question, then click “send.”

### Zoom Webinar “Attendee” Controls:

During the Q&A session, type in your questions and submit using the “Q&A” function

Chat Raise Hand Q&A

## Q&A Segment

Following the presentation, we will host a Q&A segment, allowing attendees to bring up any pressing questions or concerns they may have. We plan to answer as many questions as possible, and if we’re unable to answer some of the questions, attendees can email questions to [benbooth@netins.net](mailto:benbooth@netins.net) or [tylerjass@netins.net](mailto:tylerjass@netins.net). ALL questions will be posted on the Iowa One Call website on the ESAP 2022 page after the meeting.

Welcome  
Feel free to ask the host and panelists questions

Type your Questions here and click “Send”

Example Question 1

Send anonymously

Cancel Send

### Zoom Webinar “Attendee” Controls:

The “Raise Hand” function

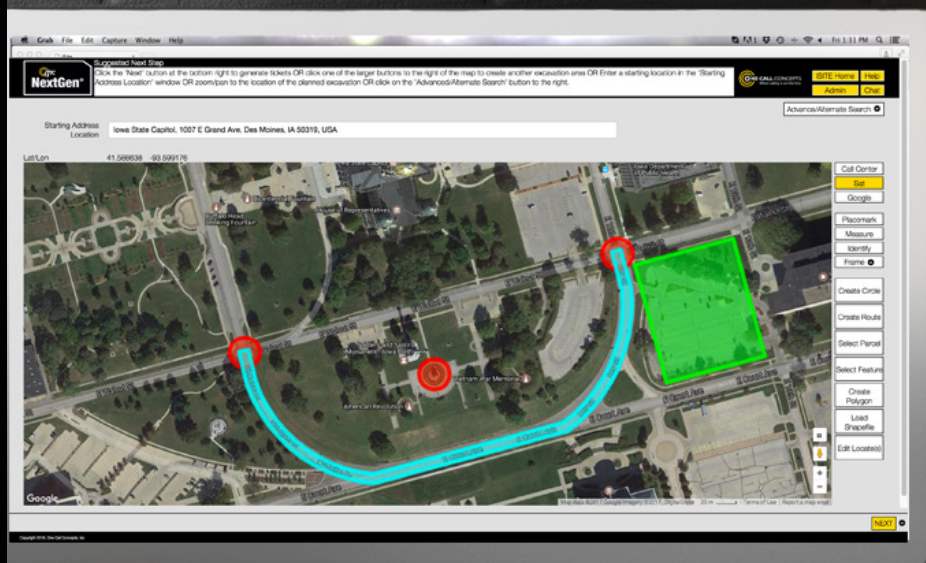
Chat Raise Hand Q&A

### Zoom Webinar “Attendee” Controls:

Hand is “Raised”

Chat Lower Hand Q&A

# TIPS FOR MAPPING PRECISELY AND ACCURATELY



**CHECK OUT THE NEXTGEN ONLINE TICKETING TUTORIAL [HERE!](#)**

Use the right tool for the job – ITIC NextGen offers a diverse array of mapping options to fit every scenario.

2. Don't over-map – ITIC NextGen builds the locate request from the mapping. Over-mapping a work area can result in wasted time and resources.

3. Double-check your work – use the different map views and/or Google street view to help ensure you've mapped accurately and completely.



# 2023 EXCAVATION SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM: PLANNING FOR SAFETY

When developing content for Iowa One Call's annual Excavation Safety Awareness Program (ESAP), current trends and issues are always emphasized as focal points, but the core of every program and presentation is based on safety and damage prevention. The 2023 ESAP will focus heavily on "safety first" as the most significant current issue facing the excavation/locating industry with increased the safety risk at excavation sites across Iowa.

The escalating issue of locating delays has become a leading industry problem, resulting in significant repercussions within the construction/excavating communities. As more excavators become accustomed to "delayed locates" as the norm, some are choosing to begin their excavations without locate markings, while others are purchasing locating transmitter/receiver equipment to perform their own locating procedures without having adequate training and knowledge of the process. From a safety perspective, neither of these options are optimal solutions to the problem. This dilemma is compounded by the overwhelming demand placed on field locating technicians, who must race against the clock to meet almost unattainable demands and deadlines. This relentlessly demanding process of racing against time day in and day out can lead to issues involving inadequately located underground facilities.



***Safety has to be the overriding factor for all decision-making before, during, and after every excavation, and the primary deterrent to jobsite accidents and injuries***

*– Ben Booth*

At this time, there are no clear-cut solutions to the growing problem of locating delays, but excavators, locators and all other stakeholders must embrace the problem head on through collaboration, communication, and due diligence. The 2023 ESAP program will emphasize "safety first" as the fundamental aspect of every excavation, both during the planning stage and throughout the entire process. "Safety has to be the overriding factor for all decision-making before, during,

and after every excavation, and the primary deterrent to jobsite accidents and injuries," said Ben Booth, spokesperson for Iowa One Call.

With safety as the primary focus, the 2023 ESAP program will feature an overview of the laws/requirements, industry best practices, and system tools, put in place to expedite efficiency and to mitigate risks. [Click here to register for the 2023 ESAP meetings using the Iowa One Call website.](#) Additional information and instructions for registering can be found in this newsletter.

Iowa One Call wishes everyone a safe and productive new year.

Dig safe.



# INTRODUCING THE Safe Excavator App



State laws pertaining to excavation (or digging) vary – and finding the specific information you're looking for quickly can be a challenge.

The **Safe Excavator App** makes it easy to find state-specific excavation information including the following requirements or events:

- ▼ Advance notice or wait time
- ▼ Pre-marking ('whitelining')
- ▼ 811 ticket information
- ▼ Names of local enforcement agencies and 811 call centers, also connecting you electronically to submit a locate request
- ▼ Includes safe digging tips + checklist

PLEASE CONTACT  
**Lindsay Sander**  
713.208.0273  
LNS@SanderResources.com  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

  
**National  
Excavator  
Initiative**  
*Safety always.*

FREE to download in the App store (Apple) and Google Play (Android)

Search "safe excavator" or "safeexcavator" and look for the orange shovel



As simple as...  
**1...2...3!**

- 1 Select a state
- 2 Pick an activity
- 3 Research your topic



[www.safeexcavator.com](http://www.safeexcavator.com)



Know what's below.  
**811 before you dig.**

The National Excavator Initiative is an effort to raise the awareness of a critically important program: 811.

Contacting 811 before digging is the single most critical action an excavator can take to help ensure their health and safety are protected, while at the same time preventing financial harm and environmental impact.

# IN THE NEWS



*Local Excavation and  
Safety News From  
Around the Web*



## **ESAP 2023 Open for Registration**

[www.iowaonecall.com/2023-excavation-safety-awareness-program/](http://www.iowaonecall.com/2023-excavation-safety-awareness-program/)

Excavators/contractors and utility locators:

Our Excavation Safety Awareness Program (ESAP) meetings are filling up quickly! Reserve your spot by registering at [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com).

As always, a free hot lunch is included at all the in-person meetings. See you in the new year!

[\[Register Today\]](#)

## **University of Iowa will see construction boom in 2023**

[www.thegazette.com](http://www.thegazette.com)

In 2023, the UI will kick start hundreds of millions of dollars in construction to either enable that massive project or propel a west campus transformation for expanded health care access, increased academic opportunities and amplified athletic experiences... [\[Read More\]](#)

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