

PRESS RELEASE
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National Utility Contractors Association Comments on Release of Industry Study on Facility Locating

(Fairfax, Va.) – The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) is pleased to comment on the release of a new industry study, titled [“811 Emergency,”](#) that thoroughly examines the underground facility locating process related to excavation construction projects.

The study was commissioned by the Infrastructure Protection Coalition (IPC), a group of associations representing broadband, electric, fiber optic cable, natural gas, pipelines, sewer, transportation, and water industries who design, construct, maintain, or locate these underground systems. The study addresses fundamental issues within federal and state regulation, enforcement, finance, insurance, and other factors.

“The foundation of damage prevention is that all excavators notify their 811 centers, and that all underground facility owners belong to their 811 center and accurately locate and mark their facilities in a timely fashion, according to state law,” said NUCA CEO Doug Carlson. “Excavation contractors are facing increasing challenges related to facility locating, and it’s become clear that the problem is getting worse. This report does a good job of identifying and analyzing the underlying reasons for this, which is becoming a bigger and bigger problem every day.”

The major purpose of the study on facility locating was to identify the leading reasons behind waste and cost overruns that cost billions of dollars to the industry and our society every year. The top four leading reasons that IPC found are as follows: a failure of operators to perform all facility marks on time leading to frequent and inefficient over-notification; poor communication with locators; missing facility marks (destroyed by constructed or in need of remark); and delayed locating/marketing due to contractor downtime.

The study identifies that the leading reasons behind waste and cost overruns in the industry expand nationwide, while also providing a state-by-state breakdown of damage prevention programs across the country. Recommendations for state policymakers are included in the report with the hope that lawmakers will consider the data when adjusting their damage prevention statutes (providing no exemptions in damage prevention in the state law), requiring damage reports, and balancing enforcement.

The recent passage of comprehensive infrastructure legislation will result in overwhelming amounts of construction work on water & sewer, broadband, and other subsurface infrastructure, underscoring the critical need for all stakeholders to meet their responsibilities in the damage prevention process.

“For several years excavators have pointed out the need for accurate locating and timely marking of facilities, and more balanced enforcement by state authorities to ensure for compliance with locating and marking responsibilities,” said Matt Mingus of Team Construction in Nashville, Tenn., and chairman of NUCA’s Damage Prevention Committee. “What we have not had is data to back these points up. This study provides a comprehensive look at the facility locating process from a national perspective, and provides a state-by-state evaluation of what works and what doesn’t work when it comes to ensuring compliance with locating and marking requirements.”

The entire “811 Emergency” study can be found online at the Infrastructure Protection Coalition’s website, www.ipcweb.org.

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About The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)

Founded in 1964, the National Utility Contractors Association represents nearly 1,700 U.S. utility and excavation contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who provide the materials and workforce to build and maintain our nation’s intricate network of water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, and electric infrastructure. NUCA is found online at www.nuca.com, and can be followed on Twitter at [@NUCA_National](https://twitter.com/NUCA_National). The association’s Twitter hashtags are #WeDigAmerica and #NUCADigs.