
California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

November 8, 2018

Agenda Item No. 5 (Information Item) – Staff Report

Update on Education Curriculum

Presenters

Jason Neyer, Policy Analyst

Discussion

The Dig Safe Board’s (“Board”) 2018 Plan establishes the identification of relevant education in lieu of fines as a strategic activity, and the Boards’ sanctions may include direction to attend relevant education (Gov. Code § 4216.19(e)). At our October Board Meeting in Sacramento, staff received direction to assist the Board in creating an in-house educational course. Staff has been researching past dig-in incidents to use as case studies in course content and will discuss progress since the October meeting.

At the direction of Member Del Toro and Member Johnson, staff began identifying and researching past dig-in incidents that may be used as case studies in our educational course. Incidents identified include:

- A transmission gas line strike in Fresno, California in 2015 causing thirteen Injuries and one fatality. No Underground Service Alert (USA) ticket was a likely factor in this incident.
- A water line strike in Paso Robles, California in 2008 causing two fatalities. Misreading of a map of the excavation site was a likely factor in this incident.
- A distribution gas line strike in Kansas City, Missouri in 2013 causing one fatality. Improper potholing was a likely factor in this incident.

Staff continues to look for past incidents having a distinct set of circumstances that provide an opportunity to educate on safe excavation practices.