California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

Earthwork and Road Construction Workshop
Discussion Questions

1. Roadways often have shallow infrastructure and utilities such as car detectors, vaults, and valves or risers for accessing underground infrastructure.
    a. How do you safely determine the underground location of these shallow facilities and work around them in your work?

2. Utility locates are usually marked directly on the roadway and outlying areas, and in removing the pavement these locate marks may be removed along with the road surface.
    a. How do you communicate utility locations and potholing throughout the duration of a project if the pavement is removed or the area is unpaved?
    b. Do your methods change as the project progresses, for instance by reference to photographs, monuments, maps, or GIS systems?

3. What factors cause your organization to pothole an underground utility more frequently than other utilities in order to determine its location?

4. How do you communicate utility location information and potholing work across a wide area, such as in grading or earthmoving?

5. What do you do to facilitate information sharing between parties in the construction phase of a project?
    a. How do you evaluate the quality of that information?
    b. What information is included on an ideal utility map?

6. How does your organization develop your damage prevention policies?
    a. For instance, do you coordinate with other companies, incorporate any industry standards, review near misses, or anything else?
    b. What causes your organization to update your policies over time?