2019 DIG SAFE BOARD INVESTIGATION TRENDS IDENTIFIED

Second Annual Education & Outreach Meeting
September 10, 2019
Los Angeles, California

No Ticket

The reasons given by excavators for excavating without a ticket vary:

- Ignorance of the Law
- Hiring Unlicensed/Uninformed Contractors
- No need to call, worked in the area before.
- Do not consider their work to be excavation.
- Municipalities working on their own utilities

Abandoned Lines

- In many instances no one claims the utility.
- Operators do not have records or do not make the records available to the excavator.
- If operators do have maps, many of them are outdated.
- Excavators are told by operators to cover up the utility if no one claims it.



Old or Damaged Locate Marks

- Marks are unclear.
- Excavator didn't see covered marks.
- Excavator requested new marks but is told the marks are sufficient by the operator.
- If the marks are not clear to the excavator, they need to continue requesting new marks before digging.



Power Tools in the Tolerance Zone

- Many excavators are using power tools in the tolerance zone to expose utilities in an effort to save time and money.
- Some excavators say soil type factors into their decision to the use of power tools in the tolerance zone to expose utilities.



Failure to Document Damages or Incidents

As it is not a requirement to call 811 to report damage, many incidents go unreported.

- Excavators work out a settlement between themselves and the utility and do not report the damage to 811.
- Limits the parties that have knowledge of the damage.

