

USA North Damage Prevention Update

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

Common Ground Alliance Regional Partners

In addition to serving as a forum for stakeholders at the national level, the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) provides an effective local forum to discuss best practices in damage prevention. In the spirit of shared responsibility, the CGA works collectively and cooperatively with local damage prevention organizations in communities throughout North America.

Benefits of Partnership

- Promotes the adoption of the CGA Best Practices within local communities as well as on a national level. Strengthens the communication between national, regional, state, and local levels of damage prevention initiatives.
- Encourages promotion of damage prevention among stakeholders in local areas, and provides the opportunity to attend programs, conferences, and meetings locally.
- Provides national support and visibility to stakeholders joining in local discussions. This will strengthen existing groups by helping to recruit stakeholders who may not currently participate in local damage prevention discussions.
- Promotes more widely accepted practices, procedures, methods, and tools. This gives a regional damage prevention group the ability to influence other stakeholders in areas of continual improvement and damage avoidance, and it will strengthen the group's ability to affect change at both state and national levels.

For more information on joining the California Regional CGA (CARCGA) contact: Ann Diamond at ann@digalert.com or to join the Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance, (NRCGA) contact: Dana Wilson at dana.wilson@swgas.com

Record Archives

Did you know that USA North records are retained for 6 years in California & Nevada?

Vice Chairman of USA North Board Retires

While serving on the USA North Board, Frank Price was the Distribution Maintenance Manager for

Alameda County Water District. Frank was responsible for the maintenance of their underground water distribution system. His crews are constantly excavating in the streets to install or repair water mains and service laterals. Frank has 11 years of service with Alameda County Water Dept, and 22 years with East Bay Municipal Utility District. He has brought a total of 33 years of experience to the USA North Board of Directors.

In December of 2003 Frank agreed to serve on the USA North Board of Directors as the representative for the Alameda County Water District. In 2005 he assumed the position of Vice Chairman, providing leadership and guidance for the board.

Frank's dedication to damage prevention has been especially helpful in contributing to create the Board Handbook policy. He also initiated many positive changes to the USA North policy, including having USA North provide a copy of tickets to excavators from the USA North Website, and the practice of providing a copy of the ticket to excavators email addresses.

Frank's retirement plans include catching up on reading his collection of novels and writing. He will also be traveling to visit family both in Boston and Hawaii.

All of the USA North staff are grateful for Frank's years of service on the USA North Board of Directors and wish him the best as he enjoys his retirement.

FAQ's

Should I call in a ticket request if I'm in the design stage of my job? A ticket request should only be processed if you intend to excavate within the next 2 working days to 14 calendar days. If you need to know the location of underground facilities for planning purposes, please contact the member utilities directly. They will assist you with maps, drawings, or an on-site meeting. USA North can provide you with a list of our Members who may have utilities at a particular site through the Design Inquiry Program available on our Website.

How deep are the underground facilities? The depth of underground facilities vary, therefore state law requires you to hand dig 24 inches on either side of the facility or paint marks whichever is provided down to the depth of your excavation. If you cannot find the facility you must call our Center back and request the affected

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operator(s) to provide more information. No power equipment may be use in this area until the facility has been located and protected. The current depth of a facility might not be the same as it was when it was originally installed, due to soil erosion, grade change, and many other factors. To ensure the safety of excavators and avoid utility disruption, hand dig when working in the approximate location of underground facilities.

Are you the Competent Person at your site?

A Competent Person is someone who, through training and/or experience, is knowledgeable of the various Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) standards that apply to their workplace, is capable of identifying workplace hazards relating to their specific operations, and has the authority vested in him or her by their employer to correct the hazards to protect workers. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Employers, and not OSHA to determine who the Competent Person for their particular construction site is. For more information go to: www.competentpersontraining.com

Create a Ticket on our Website

Excavators can submit their tickets online at our website, instead of calling in. This service is available to all excavators that take part in the training offered by the USA North Online Services Department. You can submit your tickets over the internet 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

Currently, only planned excavations taking place between 2 working days to 14 calendar days in California and Nevada will be available to submit online. For short notice or emergency tickets you would still need to call USA North during normal business hours. You can also have access to view, extend, and renew your tickets online using our programs. Contact Joe or Vladimir at 925-798-9504 x 2309 or 2319 today to sign up for one of these programs.

5 Steps to a SAFE excavation

1. **Survey and Mark:** Survey your proposed ex-

cavation site. Make a list of affected operators of underground facilities (operators) at your job site, their needs, and requirements. Mark the excavation site on paved surfaces with white spray chalk, water base, UV paint or equivalent less permanent type markings; use flags, stakes, whiskers, etc. on unpaved surfaces, (Homeowners can use flour.)

2. **Call Before You Dig:** Call USA North 2 workings days to 14 calendar days before you dig in California or Nevada. Only operators who are members of the USA North program will be notified. Compare your list of affected operators determined in Step 1, with the list of operators notified by USA North. For your safety contact any operator at your site that is not a member of USA North.

3. **Wait the Required Time:** The 2 working day to 14 calendar day notice in California & Nevada allows USA North members to examine their underground facility records and respond to you. Our members, who are operators of underground facilities, will mark, or stake the horizontal path of their facility with the appropriate color code, provide you information about the location of their facility or advise you of clearance. Depending on our member's workload, they may contact you to try to negotiate a new start time for your excavation. This will allow them the opportunity to provide you with greater service.

4. **Respect the Marks:** Preserve facility marks for the duration of the job. If any of the operator markings are not reasonably visible, you must call USA North and request re-marking by the affected operator(s). A re-mark request requires a 2 working day notice. When you request an operator(s) to re-mark their facilities, you will be asked if your excavation site is still outlined in white, so the USA North member can respond to your request.

5. **Dig with Care:** In California and Nevada hand excavate within 24" of the outside diameter of the facility. Facilities that are in conflict with your excavation are to be located with hand tools and protected before power equipment is used. Notify the affected operator(s) of any contact, scrape, dent, nick, or damage to their facility.

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USA North Administration:

Center's Office Number

All Extensions - - - - 925-798-9504

Administration Assistant

Linda Whitley - - - - ext 0

Operations Department

Leah Keyes, Lynda Bloxsom & Ryan White - ext 1

Operations / Public Relations Manager

Don Heyer - - - - ext 4

General Manager

Mike Heyer - - - - ext 5

Public Relations Support

Jamie Moreno - - - - ext 6

Public Relations Assistant

Patrice Lynn Heyer - - - - ext 7

IT Manager / Operations Supervisor

Chris Brassart - - - - ext 8

Bookkeeper

Tonie Ibarra - - - - ext 9

IRTHNet Tech Support ext

Vladimir Lerma ext 2319 & Joe West - ext 2309

Mailing Address:

4090 Nelson Avenue Suite A

Concord CA 94520-1232

Fax: 925-798-9506

Email: usanorth@usan.org

Website: www.usanorth.org

USA North's Coverage Area:

Central & Northern California: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Nevada: Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine.

2009 / 2010 Federal and State Holiday Schedule

Holidays	Date	State	Center
<u>Independence Day</u>	07/03/09	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Labor Day</u>	09/07/09	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Columbus Day</u>	10/12/09	CA	Open
<u>Nevada Day</u>	10/30/09	NV	Open
<u>Veteran's Day</u>	11/11/09	CA/NV	Open
<u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	11/26/09	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Family Day</u>	11/27/09	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Christmas Day</u>	12/25/09	CA/NV	Closed
<u>New Years Day</u>	01/01/10	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Martin Luther King's</u>	01/18/10	CA/NV	Open
<u>Lincoln's</u>	02/12/10	CA	Open
<u>President's Day</u>	02/15/10	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Cesar Chavez Day</u>	03/31/10	CA	Open
<u>Memorial Day</u>	05/31/10	CA/NV	Closed

Note:

Federal holidays are printed in red and State holidays are printed in blue (the State that observes the holiday is listed under the State column). Both California and Nevada One-Call Laws, do not allow Federal or State Holidays to be included as part of the legal notice for the excavation notification. Holidays falling on a Saturday will be observed on the Friday before and holidays falling on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday.

Excluding the eight (8) holidays underlined above the Center's hours are:

Operations Hours; M-F 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Office Hours; M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Important Web Links:

- ◆ Common Ground Alliance / One Call Systems Int'l
www.commongroundalliance.com
- ◆ USA North – (Call Before You Dig Center)
www.usanorth.org
- ◆ California Government Code
www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=gov&codebody=4216&hits=20
- ◆ California Code of Regulations (Cal/OSHA) -
www.dir.ca.gov/title8/1541.html
- ◆ Nevada Revised Statutes -
www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-455.html
- ◆ Nevada Administration Code -
www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-455.html

Click on the link above that you are interested in and it will direct to the appropriate site.