

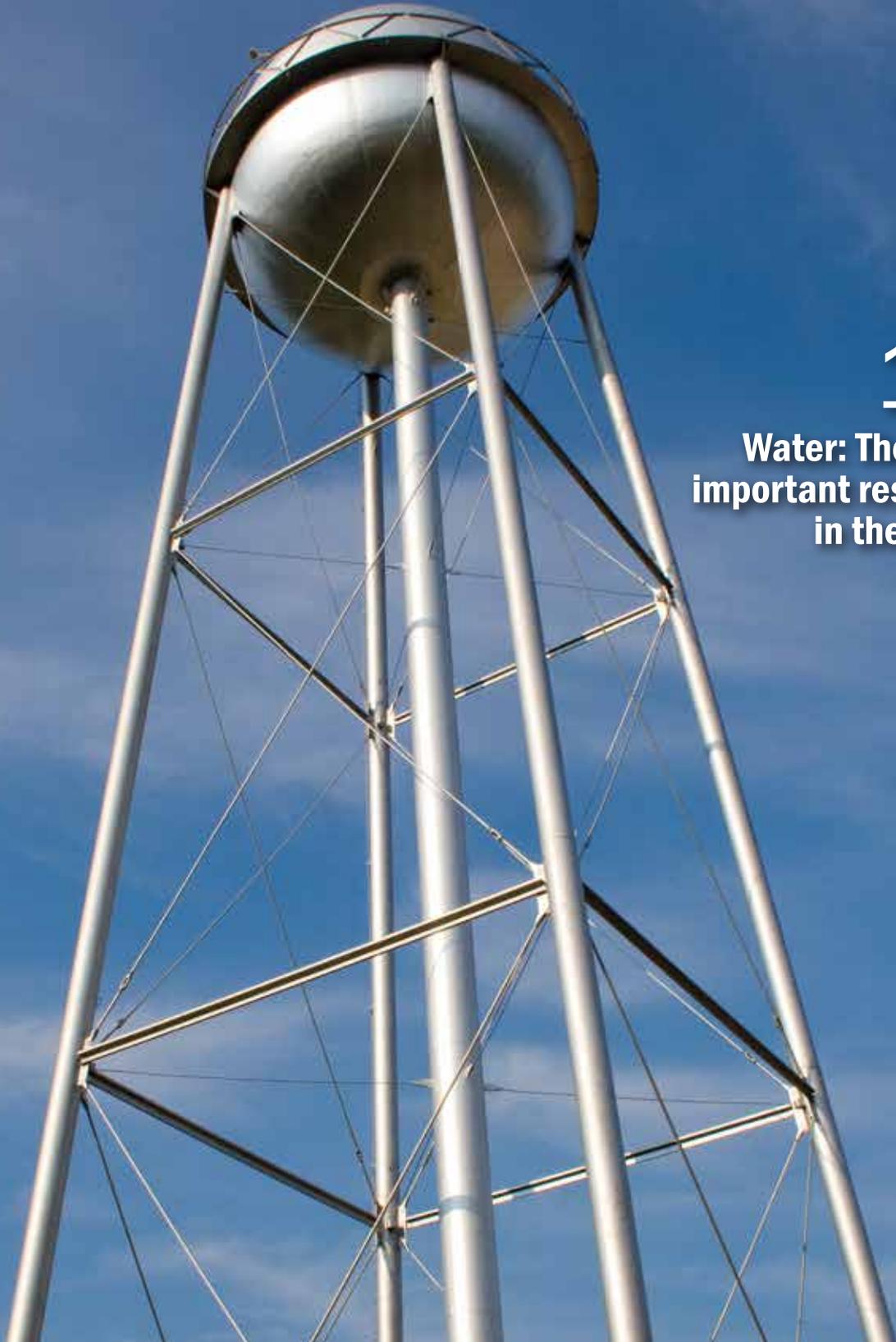
*Louisiana*

2018 Issue 4



10

**Water: The most  
important resource  
in the world**





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*from the desk of*  
**David Frey**



**A**s I reflect on 2018 for a moment, I am very thankful to be working with a board of directors committed to the common goal of keeping our communities and underground infrastructure safe.

I'm also grateful for the stakeholders across our state who have worked tirelessly to create a positive environment of cooperation. By your example, you've encouraged all of us to be more willing to listen to the perspectives of others. As the result of listening to other ideas, I believe that our damage prevention program will continue to improve. Our goal is to be fair to all. And we've learned if it is not fair to all, it is not fair at all.

I hope you were able to attend the Louisiana 811 Connection in Lake Charles last month. Attendees, exhibitors and sponsors were all very complimentary about the event. It was an event that focused on showcasing the software and all the benefits that are available to our members and users of our system.

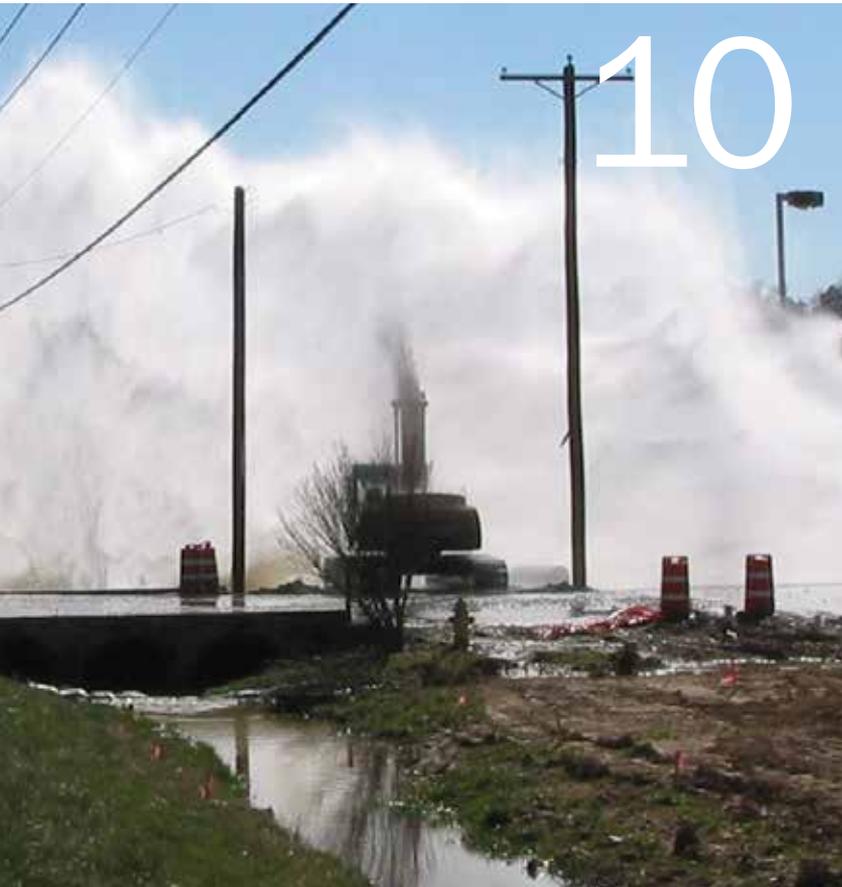
75% of all tickets we take at Louisiana 811 are internet based and of that number, 81% are created using NextGen. Thanks to all of you who have taken advantage of this amazing software. If you've not yet converted over to it, give us a call and we'll show you how easy it is.

Also, just around the corner is our annual Damage Prevention Summit. As a reminder, the 2019 Louisiana Summit has moved from March to January 15 – 17. You really need to go ahead and register for the Summit now. I understand that the exhibit hall is almost full already and we're bringing back the locate rodeo. To learn more about this year's event, go to [www.louisiana.damagepreventionsummit.com](http://www.louisiana.damagepreventionsummit.com). Hope to see you there!

Also, I want to thank those who have committed their support of this very important damage prevention message by advertising in this publication. Not only have you given us the unique opportunity to promote damage prevention like few other states have been able to do, but in addition you are able to connect with other damage prevention professionals and stakeholders on a quarterly basis.

Let me wish you the happiest of holidays and I look forward to working with you in 2019.

*David Frey  
Executive Director  
Louisiana 811*



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Ag Expo**  
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[www.ltassn.org](http://www.ltassn.org)

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Annual Convention**  
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**A Telecommunications Association/LA Cable &  
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# Increasing visibility

## *Signs go up to help keep damage numbers down*

By Michael Downes  
811 Magazines



If you are among the thousands of people who drive along Louisiana State Highway 64 in East Baton Rouge Parish, you may have noticed a few new signs on the route.

They are the first examples of a new initiative by Louisiana 811 to encourage utilities and excavation companies to help promote LA811's core message.

Gas Utility District No. 1 of East Baton Rouge Parish recently installed the 4-foot-by-8-foot signs on their buildings, facing Greenwell Springs Port Hudson Road, to increase awareness to call 811 before you dig.

Operations Manager Thomas Smith said the signs are geared mostly toward the general public, but professional excavators may notice the signs as well, as the area is seeing an increase in residential construction activity.

"Anyone who passes the signs, it will catch their eye really good," Thomas said. "We're on a two-lane highway

between two cities, so it's heavily traveled by several thousand vehicles."

The idea to put up signs was pitched to Thomas by Robert Borne, vice chairman of Louisiana 811, and senior project manager with Entergy. Robert and Thomas serve together on the Louisiana Gas Association board, and that's where the conversation started.

"Louisiana One Call had the design done for us, all we had to do was get the 4-by-8 sign made," Thomas said. "We put up two signs so you can see it from both directions."

The signs are part of a larger initiative by Louisiana 811 to get the word out to small towns and rural areas and remind them to call before they dig.

Robert said Gas Utility District No. 1 paid about \$250 each for the large signs, but that's a small price to pay if it prevents even one costly — and potentially deadly — utility strike.

"We will take any chance we have to promote 811," Thomas said. "The first thing our service guys and ladies in the office tell the customers who call in is to call 811 before they excavate. The 811 logo is also on the brochures we hand out to customers."

Thomas said the area where Gas Utility District No. 1 is headquartered doesn't have any 811 related billboards, so this is a good way to get the word out.

The signs include the Gas Utility District No. 1's logo — a fleur-de-lis with a blue flame rising behind it — along with the Louisiana 811 logo and a message to call or click before you dig.

A backhoe bisects the sign, adding a graphic element that Thomas said may also catch the eye of curious kids. After all, it's never too early to reach out to future excavators and start a dialogue with their parents about digging safely.

An electrician is already at work wiring in lighting to keep the signs visible at



night, which are mounted on two of the metal buildings on the Gas Utility District complex.

Thomas said he is looking into making bumper stickers with the LA811 logo to take the message to the next level. The stickers would adorn heavy equipment and be handed out at outreach events.

“We basically try to participate in anything and everything we can to support damage prevention,” Thomas said. “We participate in Diggers’ Night Out, the Louisiana Gas Association and anything we can do to help. There’s a heavy emphasis on calling 811 in our organization.”

Thomas and his crews work closely with LA811, and has always had positive experiences with the organization, as he mentions that pipeline safety is of prime importance to the him and the Gas Utility District.

“They’re great and just a phone call away for us. With Brent and David and Thelma, basically everyone there, if there’s a problem, all you have to do is pick up the phone,” he said.

And if your utility or company would like to participate in the 811 sign program, all you have to do is pick up the phone — the staff at LA811 can get the process started. They provide the high-resolution graphics files to make the process easy and to make the sign stand out. 



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# Water operators contribute to Diggers' Night success

By Michael Downes  
811 Magazines



In southern Louisiana, there's water everywhere. From rivers and bayous to lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, the area is surrounded by water. And fights with water. And thrives because of water.

But keeping fresh drinking water flowing to residents and businesses is a serious task. Aging infrastructure and shifting ground can create breaks that require repairs — and that's before anybody even puts a shovel in the dirt. Excavation operations multiply the headaches surrounding any water operation.

But the emphasis to call before you dig, and safer digging techniques, has reduced the number of surprise repairs caused by digging over the years. A lot of that credit goes to initiatives that help get the word out to the public to work safely around all types of underground facilities.

## Water Wizards

Gerald Hoffpauir and Ryan Scardina are passionate about water. If you combined their years of service providing clean, reliable drinking water to residents of Louisiana, it would add

up to more than three quarters of a century.

They know how important safe digging is to keeping water flowing in their communities, and have worked to get the message out to the audience who is on the front lines of damage prevention — the excavators.

Events like Louisiana 811's Diggers'

**“The ‘call before you dig’ message is out there more, and there’s more focus on damage prevention.”**

Night Out are gaining in popularity across the country, and Gerald and Ryan help coordinate these events in their respective areas.

Gerald is the superintendent of Calcasieu Parish Water Works District One and a Louisiana 811 board member. He has been involved in the water industry for more than 40 years. In that time he's seen a lot of changes, including an increasing emphasis on damage prevention.

“Frequent line breaks from excavation used to be common back then, but it's come a long way,” Gerald said. “The ‘call before you dig’ message is out there more, and there's more focus on damage prevention.”

He credits Louisiana One Call for helping to spread the message, along with other stakeholder groups like Lake Charles Utility Council, of which he's the chairman.

Ryan is the technical services manager for Baton Rouge Water Company. He oversees the engineering aspects of the operation — a department he's worked in for more than 36 years. He said participating in damage prevention stakeholder groups like the Ascension and Baton Rouge Utility Coordinating Council, where he serves as chairman, and the Capital Area Utility Risk Partnership (CAURP) where he is a member, helps to keep utilities and excavators on the same page — and reduces damages and other disruptions.

He got involved in CAURP a few years ago after attending their Diggers' Night Out events in the past. He said that event has been helpful in connecting

the call before you dig message directly to the excavators who use it every day.

He said on the whole, contractors are more conscientious than ever about not damaging underground infrastructure and are more aware of the rules imposed by the Louisiana Underground Utility and Facility Damage Prevention Law, known as the "Dig Law," but there are still issues that need to be addressed... especially from the perspective of a water operator.

"Damage prevention is very important," Ryan said. "We get a lot of respect from contractors. They typically respect the marks, but some are still more willing to take a risk when it comes to water or communications than gas or electricity. That's not how it should be, but sometimes they are more concerned about getting a bill from us rather than what will happen if they hit a water line."

He was quick to add that while some water lines are less immediately dangerous than hitting other utilities, striking a 24" water main could seriously injure workers.



## Diggers' Night Out

Both men help coordinate their local Diggers' Night Out, one in the Lake Charles area, the other in Baton Rouge. Those events draw about 300-400 participants per year to each with a festival atmosphere that also drives home the core message of damage prevention.

Targeting excavators — who are on the front lines of damage prevention every day — is the quickest way to reduce damage. But nobody likes sitting in boring meetings all day. With a Diggers' Night Out event, learning is made fun with food and prizes along the way.

Gerald said the Lake Charles event is in its 17th year, with 416 excavators participating. And Ryan said the Baton Rouge event marked its 25th year in October, with about 300 excavators.

The events are geared toward foremen and operators and typically include a speaker who emphasizes the risks that excavators take when they don't follow the regulations and a video presentation about safety and damage prevention. Local equipment sales and rental house owners, engineers, utility owner-operators and pipeline companies pitch in to provide food and giveaways for the crowd.

Both men said reaching out to excavators in this way has been an effective and fun way to reach their target audience, and safer digging is the result. 



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# WATER

## The most important

**H**ere are a couple of amazing facts about water that you may not know.

Did you know?

- The average cost for water supplied to a home in the U.S. is about \$2.00 for 1,000 gallons, which equals about 5 gallons for a penny.
- The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home. Roughly 70% of this use occurs indoors.
- A small bag of peanut M&M's requires 300 gallons of water to produce.
- There are an estimated 700 water main breaks per day on average in the United States.
- 30% of pipes in systems that deliver water to more than 100,000 people are between 40 and 80 years old.
- And finally, the human body is about 60% water and the human brain is 73% water. Keeping our water infrastructure safe and reliable is a

national priority. Without it you can't have jobs, you can't have businesses, hotels or homes. We must respect and protect our water lines.

While industries like thermo-electric power and farm irrigation utilize the largest volume of water, most everyone recognizes the value of protecting our nation's vital public water supplies. For example, shutting down a water supply to an airport, office complex or beauty

## Have you ever seen what a water main can do to a roadbed?

salon can be more than a hair-raising experience, but disrupting a water supply to a hospital could prove to be catastrophic.

And none of these disruptions address the impact to the water systems and

operators responsible for keeping the water flowing and safe for the customers dependent upon this valuable resource.

Recently, a contracting crew working on a state highway project was required to make a bore under a state highway that ran through the middle of a city. The highway also doubled as the main street of that city. An 811 ticket was called in, the utility companies were notified, the contractor waited the appropriate amount of time to allow the utilities to be located. All utilities were located in a timely fashion, including the 10-inch water main running in the street under pavement.

There may have been some good reasons not to expose those utilities; it was under pavement, there were time constraints and the fallback thinking may have been "I'll just bore deeper than the line..." Whatever the good reasons were for not properly exposing the utilities, especially the water line, it turned out to be a bad choice; the contractor bored through the 10-inch water main.



# WATER: resource in the world

By Roger Cox  
President, ACTS Now, Inc.

Have you ever seen what a water main can do to a roadbed? If you have, then you know, before the water pressure could be reduced with valves, a few hundred feet of this main street was gone. The city's storage tanks were in jeopardy of losing vital pressure to avoid a boil order, services in that part of the city were lost, both business and residential, and it was necessary to detour around main street until the road could be rebuilt. There were other negative consequences as well, but we get the picture.

The majority of America's population gets their water delivered from a public-supply system. This makes sense, as America's population now largely lives in urban centers. And for those of us who have chosen to live in rural areas, life is much better because of the nation's rural water systems.

Domestic deliveries by public water suppliers now total more than 24,600 million gallons per day (MGD). To put that in perspective, if you were a swimming-pool builder and a customer asked you to build a pool that would hold a million gallons, they had better

have a big yard! You would need to build a pool about 267 feet long (almost as long as a football field), 50 feet wide and 10 feet deep. Public water suppliers are also providing water to approximately 300 million people at single-family and multi-family dwellings.

Water lines are everywhere, rights-of-ways are overcrowded and because of the increased awareness of the importance of protecting all underground facilities, both municipal and rural water systems are becoming members of 811 systems because of the perceived value of being notified of impending excavation rather than by legislative enforcement.

As one rural water CEO stated, "It should be obvious to all our members by now that the best insurance policy their water system can have is to know when someone is digging near their lines. At least being a member of 811 gives the operator a chance to protect his system."

It is true that just being a member doesn't guarantee a damage won't

occur...as in this article, the water operator was notified by 811, however, national studies tell us that when you are given the opportunity to locate your water lines, damages occur less than one percent (1%) of the time.

We understand that there is more to protecting underground utility lines than just calling. But excavators need to make that call to 811 before they dig, and if you have underground utility lines, you need to be notified that someone is about to excavate near your underground lines. A water operator who became a member of 811 told me, "After becoming a member of 811, I was surprised by just how many tickets were being called in that I would have never known about before."

I've been asked, "What's the cost to be a member?" The plain truth is that it doesn't cost, it pays. One unnecessary damage or one boil order could easily cost more than the membership.

Contact Louisiana 811 to find out why it makes sense to become a member today. 



Several weeks ago, a political figure made the comment "...he's going to tell the truth and he shouldn't worry, well that's so silly because it's somebody's version of the truth. Not the truth..." and clarified it under questioning by stating, "No, it isn't truth. Truth isn't truth." My head is still reeling from this comment and its implications. It was not only in the political sense that I viewed it, but in everyday life, in business life and in my personal life. And I do not buy it.

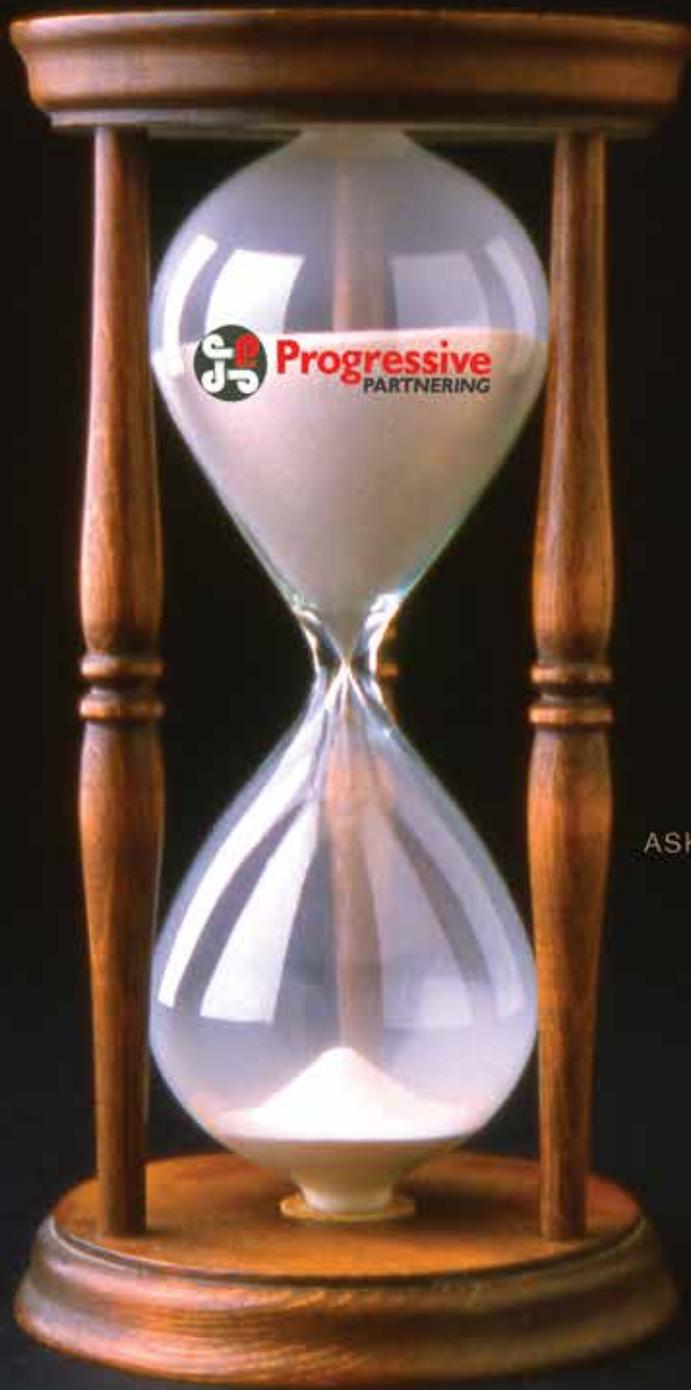
In past articles, I have made the comment that our industry is extremely competitive, a fact of which we are all aware. And much of this competition is because the low bid is awarded the work. But a new form of competition has also been emerging, namely safety.

Safety statistics are like GAAP is for accounting. Much like applying Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to a company's financial statements for evaluation and comparison, there are rules for reviewing safety statistics, like the ratios derived from the OSHA 300 Log, a log where completion is a requirement for most companies. Adherence to GAAP influences insurance rates, bonding, borrowing and other banking relationships and the perceived ability for a company to be able to complete their work. Now safety statistics are viewed as a marker for reduced insurance risk to the owner of the construction manager.

So now, many owners and many construction managers/general contractors are requiring the submission of safety numbers as a measure of the expected compliance they will find in those who are awarded contracts. And this is an understandable and viable requirement. But unfortunately, there is subjective interpretation of what incidents should go on the OSHA Log; therefore the numbers and statistics do not truly reflect the performance record as they should. I have seen more than one example of a lost work time injury case being recorded as a medical only case despite very specific rules that leave little grey area in making the call. Or perhaps an injury where a positive drug test emerges so a company elects not to record the incident despite specific direction from OSHA to include it. In order to have a true image of what each and every company does from a safety perspective, there is no room for this. The companies that perform one way while portraying another will ultimately be discovered. But that may be after a cost to workers, the project and the owner.

Ironically, this mentality has also found its way into industry safety awards. The same numbers are "massaged" into reflecting the same kind of performance in anticipation of an award. So the award is, at least to me, hollow. To the extent that it is being awarded on falsified numbers and statistics, it is meaningless. And the complication for the person who makes the changes is that as the "alterer-in-chief," they have to remember which version of the truth is actually the truth. If there is only one version, the one recorded and calculated, the one shared internally and externally, then it is easy... the truth is the truth. Anything else makes absolutely no sense. **811**

*Mr. Igel recently retired as vice president of the George J. Igel & Co., Inc. after working there for more than 35 years.*



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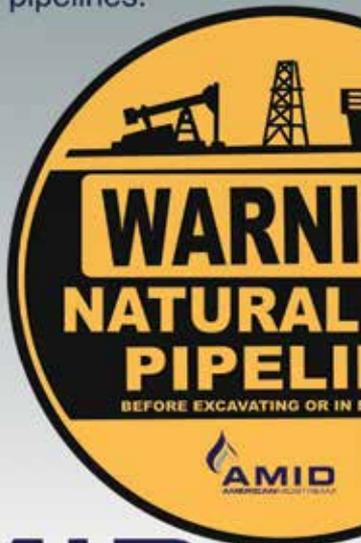


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# The Inaugural LA811 Connection

By Lareina Taing,  
One Call Concepts, Inc.



**O**n November 12-14, 2018, Louisiana 811 (LA811) hosted the inaugural LA811 Connection Meeting at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana. This educational event brought damage prevention stakeholders together to learn and network about safe digging practices and advancements in the industry. The special keynote speaker at the event was Gary Norland, an accident survivor and creator of “The Impact of An Injury.” His safety message spotlights his near-death experience being electrocuted with 12,500 volts and how it affected those close to him and his community.

Attendees listened to a variety of technological and informational sessions led by industry experts. Throughout the day-and-a-half long meeting, presenters led discussions on engaging topics such as the LA811 mobile app, ITIC NextGen, Crisis Management, IMAP, and dig law updates, to name a few. In the main hotel foyer, there were 19 exhibitor booths displaying relevant industry products and services. There were many opportunities for attendees to

explore the displays and network with new and existing industry connections.

In addition to the exhibitor booths, the newest icon in damage prevention, the 811 Trike, was on display with the matching 811 Bike. Commissioned by One Call Concepts, Inc., both customized vehicles were built by Paul Jr. of “American Chopper” fame to aid with 811 public awareness efforts.

Based on attendee feedback, the first inaugural LA811 Connection was a huge success! When asked about the event, Molly Smith, damage prevention supervisor with CenterPoint Energy, noted, “It’s going really good. I’ve been able to make a lot of connections with the Louisiana team here, different utilities and excavators. The topics have been really engaging.” Mike Parilac, owner and president of Planet Underground, has been in the industry for approximately 35 years. He commented, “I’ve gone to a lot of different conferences both small and large, and the vibe here is right at the top of anything I’ve experienced.” The attendees gained valuable knowledge and made new contacts within the damage prevention industry to take back to their respective companies. Turn ideas into action by attending next year’s event! 





# Surety VS Insurance

By Virginia Reames  
The Policy Center, Inc.  
Jackson, MS

If you are going to be bidding on a “public job” – where the owner is a city, county, state, etc – you know they will be requiring a bond in the amount of the job. This protects the entity from having to re-bid the job in case the winner figures out he did the math all wrong, and walks off the job about halfway through. That bond has to expand to whatever changes are put through. So, a bond for \$1 million can easily become a bond for \$2 million.

Ouch!

Yes, it’s really bad when that million dollar bond expands to \$2 mil, then something goes haywire and the contractor cannot finish as promised. The bond company is responsible to the entity for the completion of the project. Yes! The bond company has to now hire another contractor to complete this project as promised! Is there any wonder why the bond company – otherwise known as the surety – thoroughly examines all applicants for bonds?

This is why it is almost impossible for a new contractor to get bonded for a \$1mil job right out of the gate. If that

contractor has successfully completed smaller bonded projects, \$500,000 or less, the company will look more favorably on his \$1mil application. Unless you have a visible track record, it won’t happen.

Most RFQs use the term “bid bond” – this really is just a way to show the entity that the contractor is “bondable,” that if he wins the bid, he can get the bond. A bid bond is cost free, by the way. If the contractor is successful and wins the bid, that bid bond converts to the contract bond, for which a premium is then charged. If he is not successful, no harm, no foul – there is no charge for the bid bond. A contract bond generally costs something in the neighborhood of 3% of the job price if “all systems optimal.” If a contractor is new – with maybe one or two smaller bonded jobs of \$100,000 or so, the bond company — IF they are willing to issue a bond at all – will charge more. They might also require collateral (even a mortgage on your house!) or perhaps an Irrevocable Letter of Credit – payable to the bond company in case of default.

Your credit must be almost perfect and the bond company will check

it frequently; you must have done projects of this type and size successfully before – and prove it; you must have assets – preferably liquid, in excess of the bond amount. Because, IF the bond is defaulted, you are going to have to reimburse the bond company for the full amount they have had to expend on your behalf – and you have to have it to be able to repay it, right? OR have someone co-sign who can help pay it. Bonds are the only thing that makes it possible for contractors to grow into the larger (more profitable) jobs.

Insurance is different altogether. You don’t repay the insurance company if a claim happens. If a building is a total loss from fire, tornado, etc, repayment is not required. You wreck your car, insurance pays for it. Your rates will probably go up, but you don’t repay anything.

The only things insurance and surety have in common is that they are contracts, they charge a premium and they respond if something bad happens. That might sound like the same thing but, trust me, it is not. 



March 26-28, 2019 | Tampa



# Zero Damages. Reaching the Goal Together.

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- Andrea Stainback, CenturyLink, 7-time attendee

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# Louisiana 811

## The Mission

The mission of Louisiana 811 is to protect our members' facilities, the public, and the environment by providing excellent damage prevention services to all stakeholders in an effective manner.

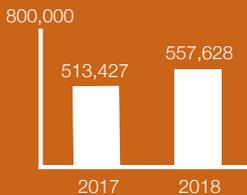
## The Vision

The vision of the leadership of Louisiana 811 is to be a pre-eminent one call center by staying on the leading edge of damage prevention technology through innovation and customer service.

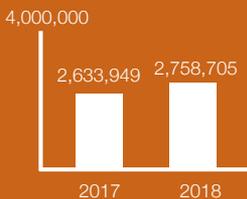
## Call Center Operations

Year to Date  
October 2018

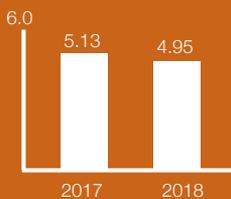
Tickets Processed



Messages Sent



Call Ratio



Call ratio is the number of utilities notified per incoming call.

To schedule a damage prevention safety meeting for your company contact:

**Brent Saltzman**

Manager, Damage Prevention Louisiana One Call

800-584-4274

225-275-3700

Extension 404

Do you know how to dig it?

**Burnie & Earl**

**Dig It**



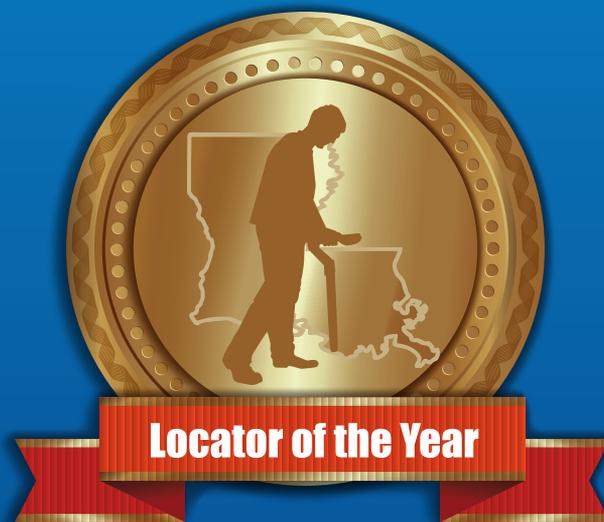
Go to [www.kidenergyusa.com](http://www.kidenergyusa.com)  
and learn how easy it is!

## sudoku puzzle

	4	5		7	9		2	8
2				8		5		
	9		2			3		
4		9		3		2		
	8		4		2	9		
		3			8	7	4	
		2		4	1			3
6		4	5		7	8	1	9
	7							

Fill in the grid with the numbers 1 through 9 so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 without repeating any of the numbers. Solution is on page 20.

# Louisiana 811 Locator of the Year Award



Entry Deadline December 28, 2018

Nominations are now being accepted! Excavators and member utilities, this is your chance to recognize a locator who has done an excellent job for you.

Tell us why your nominee is the best of the best! Simply complete a nomination form and we'll take care of the rest. Check out the information below, then head over to our website.

Note: Nominations must come from an excavator or member utility company that a locator has worked with including the locator's company. The intent of this program is to honor the great work locators have done in the field for their customers.

**Nominate at: [www.louisiana811.com/locatornomination](http://www.louisiana811.com/locatornomination)**

## PRIZES

3 divisions: small member company, large member company and contract locator

Cash prizes

Various promotional items

Plaque

Bragging rights and recognition through LA811 magazine, social media and newsletter. News releases across the state

Entrance for you and one guest to the Louisiana Damage Prevention Summit

Winners will be featured in appropriate industry publications

## ELIGIBILITY

Locators must be employed by a Louisiana 811 member or contract locator and then meet the following criteria:

Minimum 2 years locating experience in Louisiana

Must be in one of three LOY award classifications – small (receive 4,999 locate tickets or less), large (receive 5,000 locate tickets or more) and contract company employees

Must have been employed by a member company during 2018

Must have completed the following number of locates – Small classification: 500 locates in 2018, Large classification: 5,000 locates in 2018 and Contractor: 5,000 locates in 2018

No "At Fault" damages in 2018.

Zero Safety Violations in 2018  
*Eligibility criteria will be verified by locator's supervisor*

## AWARDS RECOGNITION

The Awards Ceremony is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 during lunch at the Summit, Louisiana's annual damage prevention event for excavators, public works and other industry stakeholders.

Questions about the nomination process:

Email Brent Saltzman at [brent@laonecall.com](mailto:brent@laonecall.com) or call 225-275-3700 extension 404

Visit [www.louisiana811.com](http://www.louisiana811.com) for more information.

by John Jacobi

### Water

**T**he human body is, according to Wikipedia, about 60% water. We cannot live without water. But too much water in the wrong place can be a very bad thing. Last year it was hurricane Harvey. This year it was (and still is as I write this) hurricane Florence. It seems as though thousand-year flood events are happening far more often. A couple of points regarding floods: Moving water is POWERFUL!! If water is moving across a road, do NOT drive through it unless you are absolutely certain that it is only a few inches deep. If you can't see the road, you can't be sure you can make it. It is like trying to beat a train at a crossing. If you don't beat the train, the train will crush your vehicle every time. Do not let moving water turn your car into a submarine!!

The recovery efforts for Florence have already begun. We are sending manpower and supplies from Texas and I am confident that other states are as well. That said, it is a LOT of work to clean up after a major flood. We in Houston are still recovering from Harvey. It is still hot. Stay hydrated. If you are outside working in temperatures above 72 degrees, you probably won't be able to drink too much water. Take frequent breaks to cool down and don't forget sunscreen, mosquito repellent, gloves, safety glasses and whatever other personal protective equipment that may be appropriate.

What else is there to worry about with respect to water? If it is potable (drinkable) water, it has to meet purity standards. In urban areas, most potable water travels through

underground pipes to the buildings where it is needed. Once it has served its purpose, some (if not most) of the water will leave the premises through underground sewer pipes. Very few municipal water pipes and very few sewer pipes are well marked, and many are non-metallic. This makes

**The damage to a water line is usually immediately obvious...**

them difficult to locate. What happens when gas lines are replaced or new gas lines are installed? Installation may be by trenching, plowing, or horizontal directional drilling (HDD). If plowing or trenching are used, it is not unusual for water or sewer lines to be damaged. If HDD is used, a phenomenon called cross bore may occur. A cross bore occurs when the drilling tool passes through a water line or a sewer line. The damage to a water line is usually immediately obvious — water sprays all over the place. Damage to sewer lines is much more problematic. Sewer lines are typically not pressurized so damage may not be immediately apparent. The situation becomes critical when the gas line causes a clog in the sewer line and a plumber removes the clog, thereby damaging the gas line. Gas is lighter than air. Sewer

lines are usually gravity lines and slope downward from the building. The gas leaks, seeks the path of least resistance and rises to the building. If the gas pressure is sufficient to escape from the sewer system (e.g., bubble through a "P" trap) and the gas reaches a source of ignition, an explosion will likely occur.

The news is currently full of the results of such explosions in Massachusetts. While these explosions were apparently not the result of cross bores, they were the result of natural gas accumulations and cross bore damage can result in the same types of explosions.

Bottom line: Water safety is a LOT more than just worrying about using a life jacket and learning to swim.

Be aware of your surroundings and, above all, BE SAFE!! 🚒

*John Jacobi retired from PHMSA.  
For questions or comments, email:  
jjacobi@sbcglobal.net*

sudoku puzzle solution

3	4	5	6	7	9	1	2	8
2	6	7	1	8	3	5	9	4
1	9	8	2	5	4	3	6	7
4	1	9	7	3	5	2	8	6
7	8	6	4	1	2	9	3	5
5	2	3	9	6	8	7	4	1
9	5	2	8	4	1	6	7	3
6	3	4	5	2	7	8	1	9
8	7	1	3	9	6	4	5	2

# **DON'T ignore me.**

What? You don't think that you should pay attention to a little yellow flag? Well, I'm the best thing to keep your crew safe. Call 811 before digging, and Atmos Energy will plant me and my pals wherever natural gas lines are buried. Trust me, you'd rather have us get your attention than a natural gas line.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



# HOW PROS DISPOSE



Drilling and hydro-excavation fluids are a necessary component of utility and pipeline installation. Whether you're in a remote or urban setting, Vermeer delivers a range of products to help with every aspect of your installs and fluid management needs. Vermeer, with its partners, offers a range of fluid management products, including solidification mixers, vacuum excavators, drilling fluid mixing systems, reclaimers and more. Learn more about our new solidification mixer shown above at [vermeer.com/MUDHub](http://vermeer.com/MUDHub).



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