

2024 Issue 3

Louisiana



**What Underserved
Communities Really Need**

page 10



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.



from the desk of

Brent Saltzman



We have some very exciting news to share with you in this issue of our magazine. We are continually striving to move forward in fulfilling our mission of providing excellent damage-prevention services to ALL stakeholders in an effective manner.

I will start by sharing some good news regarding this last legislative session. We were successful in the passage of House Bill 397 (now ACT No. 75) which outlines a Large Project Excavation or Demolition and adds some language that will assist marine excavators. Louisiana is ahead of many other states with these changes to our Dig Law and something to be proud of. Check out this issue for more specifics regarding this legislation that will become effective January 1, 2025.

As mentioned in my last column, we are extremely excited to announce that we have hired another team member to assist with our damage prevention efforts! Her name is Ja'Ponica Dunbar, and she has hit the ground running since her start in early June. Ja'Ponica, who goes by JP, will primarily cover

southeast Louisiana and has already proved to be a huge asset to the Louisiana 811 team. She has a warm smile and a willingness to serve so please join me in welcoming her aboard.

Another bit of extremely exciting news is our online training for excavators is now available in Spanish! You asked for it and we responded. We have had our brochures available in Spanish for years but now have this awesome tool at your disposal too. Please help spread the word with your Spanish-speaking friends.

Look for us at upcoming events. We have a full slate of pipeline awareness meetings we will be participating in that run through late August in various locations in Louisiana. And don't forget the fun and educational Digger's Night Out functions that will be held in Mandeville, Lake Charles, and Baton Rouge in September and early October. These and a multitude of other educational functions can be found on our Events Calendar at www.louisiana811.com, on social media, and listed here in our magazine.

Finally, you will want to check out our new Dashboard tool that can be viewed on our website Resource Center. This tool will give you the ability to see real-time data of total tickets for the State of Louisiana and allow users to query data by Parish, ticket type and date ranges amongst other things. We are anxious for users to look at this tool, try it out and provide feedback. We feel it will be helpful in discovering where the tickets are coming from and what type of tickets are being submitted.

Until next time, stay safe and hydrated!

Brent Saltzman
Executive Director
Louisiana 811

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Roger Cox, Publisher

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Contact Louisiana 811 for specifics in their dig law.

Letters, comments, and articles are encouraged and
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Louisiana 811

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Upcoming Events

Pipeline Association of Louisiana (PAL) - safety meetings for Excavators and Emergency Responders (see pages 12-15 for *Excavator & Emergency Response meetings*)

7th Annual Northshore Diggers Night Out - September 25, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Castine Center, Mandeville

30th Annual Capital Area Utility Risk Partnership (CAURP) Diggers Night Out - October 3, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Abundant Life Church, Denham Springs

Lake Charles Utility Coordinating Council Diggers Night Out - October 10, 5:30pm – 8:30pm, West Cal Arena and Events Center, 401 Arena Rd, Sulphur, LA 70665

New Members

CITY OF GRETNA
FASTER CAJUN, LLC
MAGELLAN MIDSTREAM
MARTIN WATER SYSTEM
PELICAN BROADBAND
TEXEGY LAND, LLC
VOLT BROADBAND, LLC
WHEELING WATER SYSTEM

New Sustaining Members of LA811:
DOC ENERGY SERVICES, INC.

Operations Numbers Through June 2024

Incoming Locate Requests:

2023 – 412,324

2024 – 370,720 (-10.09% decrease)

Outgoing Notifications:

2023 – 2,002,916

2024 – 1,804,531 (-9.90% decrease)

Call Ratio (Incoming notifications to Outgoing Members)

2023 – 1:4.86

2024 – 1:4.87

On-Line Ticket Entry

2023 – 89.89%

2024 – 89.71%

Membership Contact Information Process Simplified



Underground facility operators in Louisiana are required to belong to Louisiana 811, where we maintain the maps and records that allow us to notify them of nearby excavations so that the area can be marked for safety.

According to our bylaws, as a condition of membership, all members must review, provide, and update, **ANNUALLY**, all the contact information for the following:

1. The senior management contact for your company;
2. The contact person for notifications;
3. The contact person for billing;
4. The contact information for the person designated to provide your mapping information and keep it updated.
5. The member will provide a 24/7 telephone number for emergency notifications as required by Louisiana Law.

Our e-Notify system makes it easier and more convenient for our members to keep their contact information accurate and up-to-date. It is a free service that provides the Senior Management Contact Person secure, on-line access to their member information for fast, easy updates. Members who haven't tried it are encouraged to register and give it a test-drive.

If you would like more information on eNotify, please contact Toni Mancuso at 225-275-3700, extension 429 or by e-mail at enotify@laonecall.com.

If you need assistance with mapping updates, please contact Shana Fleming at 225-275-3700, extension 443 or by e-mail at sfleming@occinc.com.



Call 811 before you dig



Your safety is our number one priority.

From installing a new pool to simply planting a tree, digging without knowing what's beneath the surface can be extremely dangerous. You could also disrupt utility services to your neighborhood, leading to expensive repairs and fines.

When you call 811, all utilities, including Entergy, will respond within two business days to locate and mark the underground utility lines. (The two business days start the morning after you call).

And if you suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately and call **1-800-ENTERGY** (368-3749) or **911**. Indications of a gas leak include the distinctive smell of natural gas, a whistling or hissing sound near a gas appliance, or dead vegetation and bubbles near a gas line.

We power life.SM

A message from Entergy New Orleans, LLC and Entergy Louisiana, LLC
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The way I See it *Louisiana 811*

By Billy Forest
Manager - Damage Prevention
Louisiana 811



August heat is among us and I hope everyone is doing well! As we move through August I want to wish everyone and their families a safe start back to school. August 11th is a special day for the excavating community as it is reserved as National 811 Day. National 811 Day brings awareness to the everyday activities performed by our excavators. While we celebrate this day, it is important to remember our excavating community and the current Louisiana Broadband Build.

This initiative is crucial for our underserved communities that do not have access to high-speed internet. The Louisiana Broadband Build brings access to our future leaders, businesses, and improves economic growth. This Build adds new convenience and ease when our community accesses the internet.


Granted, the Broadband Build has had its challenges among different parts of our industry. The build has created the need for contractors to come into our beautiful state to install this fiber.

This influx of construction has been challenging for Contractors, Locators and Owner/Operators. Everyone involved in this construction has had the daunting task of trying to prevent accidental damages to existing underground facilities. However, we

have seen stellar communication in our industry and in the work being done to solve issues relating to current construction.

Currently in Louisiana we have educational programs that are taking place in different cities across our state. These educational programs are a few examples of Louisiana 811 stakeholder's initiative towards widespread understanding of utility and construction.

Underground utility owners and construction companies have been communicating and working through challenges that come with each unique fiber build. As we move forward over the next 4 years of this project we need to continue this forward progress.

In the coming months and foreseeable future, we must continue on the path to a successful Broadband build to accomplish our original goal. To achieve this goal we need to continue to enhance communication and coordination, Strive to provide education and training to all parties involved, and use all technological solutions available to us. Above all we need to keep everyone aware of our future plans prior to excavating in their communities. This type of planning in advance gives all parties the chance to prepare, educate and look for the resources needed to do their part in this new Broadband build. 



Louisiana 811 Board Member Recognized for Service

Louisiana 811 recognized Todd Hebert, CenterPoint Energy, who stepped down as a board member after serving the Board of Directors since 2015. Todd was a very active servant leader and held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for many years.

Congratulations Todd, and on behalf of the board and staff of Louisiana, thanks for your service!

Pictured left to right: Brent Saltzman, Todd Hebert, and Brad Deshotel, Chairman of the Board, representing AT&T. 


Louisiana 811

New Employee



Please join us in welcoming Louisiana 811's newest staff member Ja'Ponica "JP" Dunbar! JP is our new Damage Prevention Coordinator for Southeast LA. We are both thrilled and extremely grateful that JP is joining our team and excited to further the state's overall damage prevention effort. JP possesses many impressive skills that will help our organization continue to thrive, including being bilingual (English/Spanish)!

"My background bridges the worlds of telecommunications and non-profit missions, fostering a passion for connecting people and protecting communities. I'm incredibly excited to join the LA811 team. My focus here lies in supporting our members – both citizens and facility owners – by upholding the critical role of damage prevention services. I am certain that together, we can ensure the safety of the public and the infrastructure that serves us all. I view this as an important task in the dig safety industry, and I'm fully committed to collaborating with each of you to achieve these goals."

Interested in collaborating on safety and damage prevention with JP? Need a bilingual resource who can help in Spanish? Reach out to JP@Louisiana811.com! 

Stay Safe Through Dig Season With CenterPoint Energy

CenterPoint Energy training is focused on making sure your leadership and field personnel understand the 811 state laws, safe digging best practices, and other tips to help your projects be completed damage free without the delays and expenses of cutting a natural gas line. Most importantly, it is critical we cover how to stay safe in the event of a cut natural gas line.

Our training also covers the steps to prevent natural gas ignition, explosion, and inherent risks should blowing gas from a damaged pipeline occur in your community.



To schedule your training session, email PublicAwareness@CenterPointEnergy.com



Connecting the Community

ATMOS public affairs manager expands outreach to spread the safety message

By Michael Downes
811 Magazines



You might not think of elementary school-age children as a target for “call before you dig” messaging, but it’s never too early to start teaching kids — and their parents — about safe digging, according to a Louisiana damage prevention champion.

Kaia Simmons, manager of public affairs for Atmos Energy in Baton Rouge, says accountability is the number one reason to start early with effective messaging.

“The kids will help hold their parents accountable,” she said. “Atmos has their messaging with kids, and they will remember if they see their parents digging and they will say ‘Did you call’. If you start early, safe digging becomes part of their culture.”

Atmos hires Kid Energy to stage these productions, which use kid-friendly characters like Gus the Gopher and Rosie the Skunk in schools and other community locations to educate kids about safe digging and what to do if you smell gas. The utility company, in cooperation with Louisiana One Call brought the presentation to several kid-friendly venues recently, including the Children’s Museum of St Tammany, where additional safety messages were shared beyond the importance of safe digging.

Kaia’s outreach falls under the company’s vision of Safe and Thriving Communities, which seeks out non-profits with an emphasis on initiatives that support students, community heroes like first responders and teachers, and the most vulnerable neighbors, including those experiencing homelessness or with mental health needs.

Kaia has a long history of community organizing and brought that charisma to Atmos when she joined the company about two years ago. She was hired away from her position as director of a local non-profit that organizes volunteers to go into public schools and provide support, particularly on the first day of school. She got to know Atmos employees through her outreach program.

“Atmos was one of our partners, and I got to know them. And now I’m in the role as partner,” she said. “My current boss recruited me for the job. I have an inside perspective coming from a non-profit.”

In the two years she’s been with Atmos, Kaia

has reconnected with various resources and partners the company has had in the past.

"I've reached out to rekindle a lot of relationships and kept a good rapport with elected officials," she said.

She also helps direct and coordinate the company's other community events, including 811 Day on August 11, Safe Digging Month in April, and numerous volunteer outreach programs throughout the year. She said it's important for the community to see Atmos as a partner, not just for

Our goal is always to help long term and make a continuous impact, not just show up for a photo op.

energy needs, but also as a neighbor that helps build strong communities.

"We love to volunteer and serve," Kaia said. "We cook at certain events and do a lot of outreach and love being out in the community. We are selective in organizations we support but it's abundant. Our main goal is to find organizations that we can help sustain with long-term relationships — not just one and done. Our goal is always to help long term and make a continuous impact, not just show up for a photo op."

One of the most recent events Kaia organized for Atmos was recruiting Atmos employees to volunteer their time to help teachers, parents and students navigate the challenges of the first few days of school. That program just so happens to be the program she directed in her previous non-profit position with East Baton Rouge Parish Schools.

"Our volunteers are there on the first day, and help get kids to their classes, and provide extra smiling faces from the community to foster a pleasant and welcoming environment on those first few days of school," she said. "Some volunteers also help with office work or assist teachers with their needs."

Kaia's enthusiasm for community outreach stretches beyond Atmos, as she invited other utilities and companies like Cleco and Boardwalk Pipelines to join in 811 Day activities this year, where the message of safe digging was shared with the community, along with free snow cones and other giveaways.

Kaia is incredibly excited about each of these events, and her enthusiasm is helping to keep families safe and communities thriving. 🚧

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JANUARY 28 – 30, 2025

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON LAFAYETTE

SAVE THE DATE

811



What Underserved Co

I remember seeing a movie years ago of wagons, buckboards and saddle horses lined up anxiously waiting for the pistol to be fired. This was the signal to begin the race to free land in Oklahoma. Estimates of up to 60,000 hopeful settlers were convinced that they would soon be in possession of the 160 acres they were entitled to. However, history records, economic pressures plus poor planning and inadequate enforcement by federal agencies made it even more chaotic than earlier land runs, resulting in massive fraud, widespread suffering, and a number of deaths.

What does that piece of history have to do with anything that is going on today? Good question! Stay with me for just a couple more minutes and let's see if there is a parallel.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs ACT of 2021/2022 promised more than a trillion dollars would be invested in infrastructure across the country. Up to \$65 billion was allocated for broadband (fiber projects) internet to help ensure that every American has access to reliable high-speed internet. All those dollars that were set aside to provide reliable high-speed internet, were for installing new infrastructure. Almost 2

years have passed since Americans were told these projects were to be granted and the timeline to invest the money was 5 years.

I've taken the time to look at the talking points for the broadband initiative and find myself in agreement with them. One of the points is everyone deserves to be connected to high-speed internet. Another is high-speed internet is what each underserved communities need. No argument here. But don't forget what every underserved community also needs is the existing underground infrastructure protected while installing the fiber. If you are out of water, you likely won't be in the mood to watch another rerun of Gunsmoke.

As I talk to stakeholder groups across the country since the passage of the Infrastructure Bill, the topic that comes up consistently is how to manage the workloads due to the unprecedented broadband network expansion projects anticipated to take place simultaneously across all states over the next 3 – 5 years. The frustrations are exacerbated because of the billions of dollars granted to states to place the fiber, none was allocated to protect existing underground facilities. While there is a clear financial impact to all owners/

operators, for the smaller utility it is disastrous. Perhaps it's the fear of the unknown, however, if utility locators struggle to keep up with the workloads of today, bringing in multiple subcontractors to meet unreasonable timelines will cause damages to trend in the wrong direction. Since many, if not most state Dig Laws can't provide relief to its members or locators, several municipalities and counties have enacted permitting processes not designed to generate revenue but designed to slow the excavation process down to meet the local utility's ability to locate their underground facility. Many of these permitting processes are unsustainable with current timelines for spending the grant money. As a result of what is happening at the local level and what could happen at the state level without written rules or regulations, many states are looking to create new ticket types such as a large project ticket or looking for ways to manage workloads by creating additional and enforceable laws designed to encourage excavators from calling in for renewals when work has been completed. Then others are looking to require new contractors to go through state-specific Dig Law training prior to working in their state.



Communities Really Need

By Roger Cox
President ACTS Now, Inc.

Photo from Carl Albert Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma

The progress toward public safety and the protection of underground utilities we're looking for is likely beyond the regulations we'll enact. But until we embody the principles of mutual trust and respect and then learn to work together as a team, excavator, locator and utility owner/operator alike, we will need the rule of Dig Law to direct our efforts.

If 10 to 15 boring rigs show up in your town and all call in the maximum number of tickets allowed by your current law and the law states it must be located within 2 or 3 days, is that possible? Well, of course not! So, in that case, who loses? And we all know the answer is everybody. Citizens depending on professionals to avoid disruptions to their water, wastewater, phone, gas or electricity will be impacted. The excavators will be impacted as they'll dig blind until someone stops the work... and somebody will. The locators will be frustrated because they already know they can't stay up with the work and the pressure placed on them to do the impossible often leads to locators finding other jobs, creating an even greater dilemma. The utility owner/operators will be dealing with both irate customers and the cost of repairs.

Elected officials will feel the heat from all sides.

I don't know if a single amendment to any Dig Law can solve the issue. And if there is one, it would take as long to get it passed as the broadband project will last.


What if there was a compelling reason for the excavators and locators to work together? What exactly would that look like? Here is just one example taken from the playbook of successful excavators from the past. It has often been called a pre-construction (pre-con) meeting. It begins and ends with two-way communication. It always seemed easier when a meeting was called at a location that would accommodate multiple stakeholders. Typically, all utilities impacted in an area were contacted, 8u (one-call back in the day) to discuss the nuances of state law, and all subcontractors on the project were there. Here are some of the things that were shared. A drawing of the project and the phases that were to start. Expected start and projected end dates were shared. They would share with the stakeholders a list of all contractors/subs that would be working and their contact information. If there is a problem, contact these

guys. One of the most important pieces of paper shared was this contact list. Each locator and utility personnel also share their contact information. Everyone in the room knew the best everyone could do, it was going to be a difficult project, but everyone in the room also knew he could count on the other stakeholders to be responsive. The general contractor accepted the role of mediator. If my locators had a problem, I could call him and if he had a problem, I would respond to his call. We were determined to make it work.

Without the threat of enforcement and working outside of the reach of the Dig Law, we were able to turn the impossible into "it can be done."

Every day, people who say there is no way we're going to be able to get this broadband project done in such a short time are being passed by people who didn't know it couldn't be done. They were willing to sit down at the table to find solutions that had been ignored or overlooked.

Admittedly, I've never worked on such a massive project, and I don't know if getting all the stakeholders to work together is even possible.

I only know it is necessary! 

2024 PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

TACTICAL PIPELINE RESPONSE TRAINING

NEW DISCUSSION BASED SCENARIO EXERCISES

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- Once completed you will receive a confirmation email
- For questions or additional information, contact us at (844) 693-7788 or visit our website at pal-awareness.com

2 At the program you will receive:

- Up to date pipeline materials with contact information
- Communication with your local pipeline operators
- Free meal and new pipeline safety training



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IN-PERSON LIAISON

Lunch Meetings

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Registration / Lunch
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Program

Dinner Meetings

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Registration / Dinner
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Program

PROGRAM

- Know the Operators.....Know their Products
- In-Person Operator Information
- Virtual Incident Scenario
- On-Scene Chemistry/Hazmat Basics
- Valuable Networking and Interaction
- Safe Digging Practices (811)

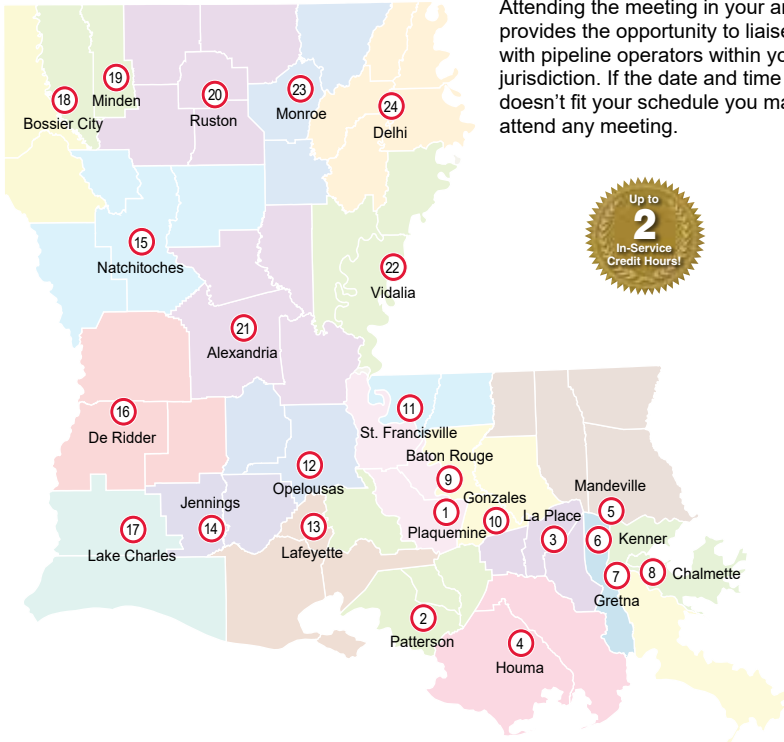
“VERY GOOD PROGRAM! I think this is the first step in planning potential responses in the future.”

Fire Division Chief



SCAN HERE to register





Attending the meeting in your area provides the opportunity to liaise with pipeline operators within your jurisdiction. If the date and time doesn't fit your schedule you may attend any meeting.



*Additional 6:00 pm dinner program available

#	City	Date	Time
1	Plaquemine*	07/29/24	11:30 AM
2	Patterson	07/30/24	11:30 AM
3	LaPlace (River Parishes)	07/31/24	11:30 AM
4	Houma	08/01/24	11:30 AM
5	Mandeville (North Shore)	08/05/24	11:30 AM
6	Kenner (East Bank)	08/06/24	11:30 AM
7	Gretna (West Bank)	08/07/24	11:30 AM
8	Chalmette (Orleans/St. Bernard)	08/08/24	11:30 AM
9	Baton Rouge	08/20/24	11:30 AM
10	Gonzales	08/21/24	11:30 AM
11	St. Francisville	08/22/24	11:30 AM
12	Opelousas	08/27/24	11:30 AM
13	Lafayette	08/28/24	11:30 AM
14	Jennings	08/29/24	11:30 AM
15	Natchitoches	09/03/24	11:30 AM
16	De Ridder*	09/04/24	11:30 AM
17	Lake Charles	09/05/24	11:30 AM
18	Bossier City	09/10/24	11:30 AM
19	Minden	09/11/24	11:30 AM
20	Ruston	09/12/24	11:30 AM
21	Alexandria	09/16/24	11:30 AM
22	Vidalia	09/17/24	11:30 AM
23	Monroe	09/18/24	11:30 AM
24	Delhi	09/19/24	11:30 AM

2024 PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA OPERATORS

Acadian Gas Pipeline System
Aethon Energy Operating, LLC
Air Liquide Large Industries
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Atmos Energy
Avocet LNG, LLC
Bayou Bridge
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CenterPoint Energy
Cheniere Creole Trail Pipeline, L.P.
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City Of Gonzales
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Diversified Energy Company
Dow Pipeline, LLC.
DTM Louisiana Gathering, LLC
Easton Energy Pipelines, LLC

Empire Midstream LLC
Enable Midstream Partners LP
Enbridge Offshore Gas Gathering, LLC
Energy Transfer
Energy Transfer - Tiger Pipeline, LLC
Energy Transfer Crude Oil
EnLink Midstream
Entergy Louisiana, LLC
Entergy New Orleans, LLC
Enterprise Products
Equistar Chemical, LP
ExxonMobil Pipeline Company
Florida Gas Transmission Company
Genesis Energy, L.P.
Gillis Hub Pipeline
Golden Pass Pipeline LLC
GOM Shelf, LLC
Gulf Run Transmission, LLC
Gulf South Pipeline Company, LLC
Harvest Midstream Company
Hilcorp Energy Company
Indorama Ventures Olefins, LLC
Intercontinental Terminals Company
Kinder Morgan
Kinetica Partners LLC
Linde
Livingston Parish Gas Utility District
LOCAP, LLC
LOOP, LLC
Louisiana Energy and Power Authority
Mardi Gras Midstream LLC
Matador Production Company
Midcontinent Express Pipeline, LLC
Mid-Valley Pipeline Company
MOEM Pipeline, L.L.C.
NGL Crude Terminals LLC
NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership LP
Permian Express Partners
Perryville Gas Storage

Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC
Pierre Part Natural Gas
Pine Pipeline
Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC
Pioneer D.B.A. Olin Chlor Alkali
Pipeline Technology
Placid Midstream LLC - Bourre Pipeline
Placid Pipeline Company, LLC
Plains Pipeline
Rosefield Operating, LLC
Saber Midstream
Sasol Chemicals USA LLC
Sea Robin Pipeline Company
Sentinel Midstream Operating, LLC
Shell Pipeline Company LP
South Coast Gas Co., Inc.
Southeast Supply Header
Southern Natural Gas Company, LLC
Stabilis LNG Port Allen, LLC
Stingray Pipeline Company Inc
Talos Energy, LLC
Targa Resources Inc.
TC Energy - ANR Pipeline Company
TC Energy - Columbia Gulf Transmission
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
Terrebonne Parish Utilities
Texas Eastern Transmission LP
Texas Gas Transmission, LLC
Third Coast
TG Natural Resources LLC
Tristate Midstream
Trunkline Gas Company
Valero
Venice Gas Gathering
Westlake Corporation
Williams
XTO Energy Inc.

2024 PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA PLEASE ATTEND THIS SAFE DIGGING EVENT

FREE EXCAVATOR TRAINING

Receive damage prevention and safe excavation training regarding pipelines with your local pipeline and gas distribution companies.

1 Steps for Registration:

- Please visit pal-awareness.com/meeting_schedule
- Select the meeting you wish to register for
- Once completed you will receive a confirmation email

2 At the program you will receive:

- Up to date pipeline materials with contact information
- Communication with your local pipeline operators
- Free meal and new pipeline safety training



CAN'T MAKE IT?

Visit Training Center. A self-paced online training available 24/7 for the entire team!
Go to trainingcenter.pdigm.com
use code: 2024EX

IN-PERSON LIAISON

Breakfast Meetings

7:30 am - 8:00 am Registration / Breakfast
8:00 am - 9:30 am Program

Lunch Meetings

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Registration / Lunch
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Program

Dinner Meetings

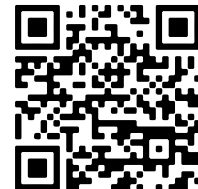
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Registration / Dinner
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Program

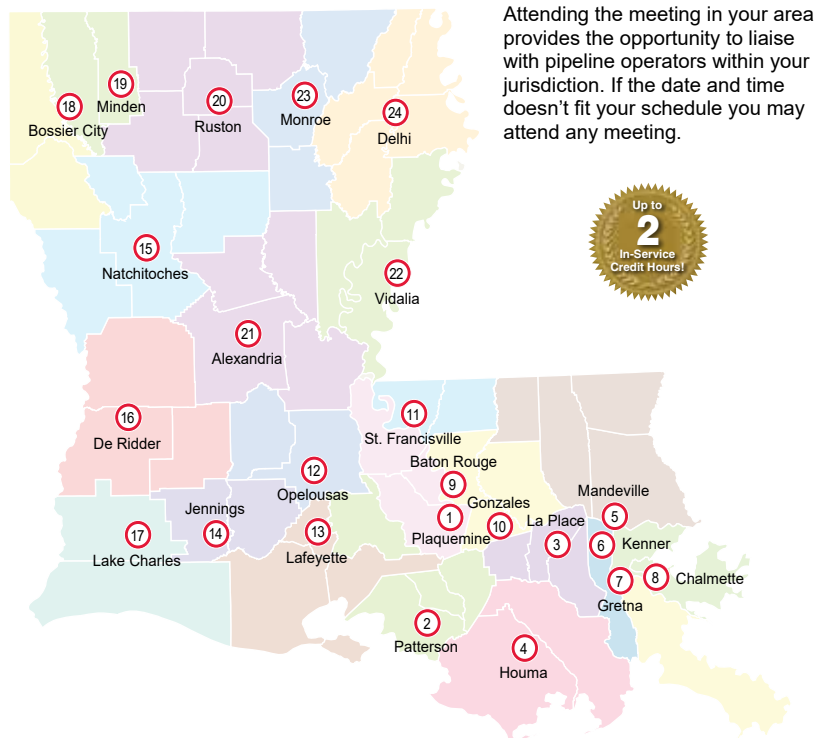
For questions or additional information, contact us at (844) 693-7788 or visit our website at pal-awareness.com

“Would highly recommend for anyone to attend these if they are digging or working around pipelines. Very good program!”

Excavation Specialist

SCAN HERE to register





Attending the meeting in your area provides the opportunity to liaise with pipeline operators within your jurisdiction. If the date and time doesn't fit your schedule you may attend any meeting.



* Additional 6:00 pm dinner program available

#	City	Date	Time
1	Plaquemine*	07/29/24	11:30 AM
2	Patterson	07/30/24	11:30 AM
3	LaPlace (River Parishes)	07/31/24	11:30 AM
4	Houma	08/01/24	6:00 PM
5	Mandeville (North Shore)	08/05/24	11:30 AM
6	Kenner (East Bank)	08/06/24	7:30 AM
7	Gretna (West Bank)	08/07/24	6:00 PM
8	Chalmette (Orleans/St. Bernard)	08/08/24	11:30 AM
9	Baton Rouge	08/20/24	6:00 PM
10	Gonzales	08/21/24	7:30 AM
11	St. Francisville	08/22/24	11:30 AM
12	Opelousas	08/27/24	6:00 PM
13	Lafayette	08/28/24	6:00 PM
14	Jennings	08/29/24	6:00 PM
15	Natchitoches	09/03/24	6:00 PM
16	De Ridder*	09/04/24	11:30 AM
17	Lake Charles	09/05/24	6:00 PM
18	Bossier City	09/10/24	11:30 AM
19	Minden	09/11/24	7:30 AM
20	Ruston	09/12/24	6:00 PM
21	Alexandria	09/16/24	11:30 AM
22	Vidalia	09/17/24	7:30 AM
23	Monroe	09/18/24	6:00 PM
24	Delhi	09/19/24	6:00 PM

2024 PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA OPERATORS

Acadian Gas Pipeline System
Aethon Energy Operating, LLC
Air Liquide Large Industries
Air Products, LLC
Arcadia Gas Storage, LLC
Atmos Energy
Avocet LNG, LLC
Bayou Bridge
BBT Louisiana Intrastate, LLC
BBT Mid Louisiana Gas Transmission, LLC
BBT MIDLA, LLC
BBT Onshore Pipelines, LLC
BBT Sigco Intrastate, LLC
BBT Trans-Union Interstate Pipelines, L.P.
Boardwalk Louisiana Gas Transmission, LLC
Boardwalk Louisiana Midstream LLC
Bobcat Gas Storage
Buckeye Development & Logistics, LLC
Cadeville Gas Storage
Calcasieu Refining Company
Calumet Cotton Valley Refining, LLC
Calumet Shreveport Refining, LLC
Cameron Interstate Pipeline LLC
CenterPoint Energy
Cheniere Creole Trail Pipeline, L.P.
Chevron Pipe Line Company
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
City Of Gonzales
Clearfork Midstream, LLC
Collins Pipeline Company
Comstock Oil & Gas
Crescent Midstream, LLC
DCP Operating Company, LP
Delek Logistics Partners, LP
Denbury Inc.
Diversified Energy Company
Dow Pipeline, LLC.
DTM Louisiana Gathering, LLC
Easton Energy Pipelines, LLC

Empire Midstream LLC
Enable Midstream Partners LP
Enbridge Offshore Gas Gathering, LLC
Energy Transfer
Energy Transfer - Tiger Pipeline, LLC
Energy Transfer Crude Oil
EnLink Midstream
Entergy Louisiana, LLC
Entergy New Orleans, LLC
Enterprise Products
Equistar Chemical, LP
ExxonMobil Pipeline Company
Florida Gas Transmission Company
Genesis Energy, L.P.
Gillis Hub Pipeline
Golden Pass Pipeline LLC
GOM Shelf, LLC
Gulf Run Transmission, LLC
Gulf South Pipeline Company, LLC
Harvest Midstream Company
Hilcorp Energy Company
Indorama Ventures Olefins, LLC
Intercontinental Terminals Company
Kinder Morgan
Kinetica Partners LLC
Linde
Livingston Parish Gas Utility District
LOCAP, LLC
LOOP, LLC
Louisiana Energy and Power Authority
Mardi Gras Midstream LLC
Matador Production Company
Midcontinent Express Pipeline, LLC
Mid-Valley Pipeline Company
MOEM Pipeline, L.L.C.
NGL Crude Terminals LLC
NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership LP
Permian Express Partners
Perryville Gas Storage

Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC
Pierre Part Natural Gas
Pine Pipeline
Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC
Pioneer D.B.A. Olin Chlor Alkali
Pipeline Technology
Placid Midstream LLC - Bourre Pipeline
Placid Pipeline Company, LLC
Plains Pipeline
Rosefield Operating, LLC
Saber Midstream
Sasol Chemicals USA LLC
Sea Robin Pipeline Company
Sentinel Midstream Operating, LLC
Shell Pipeline Company LP
South Coast Gas Co., Inc.
Southeast Supply Header
Southern Natural Gas Company, LLC
Stabilis LNG Port Allen, LLC
Stingray Pipeline Company Inc
Talos Energy, LLC
Targa Resources Inc.
TC Energy - ANR Pipeline Company
TC Energy - Columbia Gulf Transmission
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
Terrebonne Parish Utilities
Texas Eastern Transmission LP
Texas Gas Transmission, LLC
Third Coast
TG Natural Resources LLC
Tristate Midstream
Trunkline Gas Company
Valero
Venice Gas Gathering
Westlake Corporation
Williams
XTO Energy Inc.

Latest Amendment to the LA Underground Utilities & Facilities Damage Prevention Law

House Bill 397/ACT No. 75

This last legislative session had yet another proposed amendment to our Dig Law outlining two specific needs – a “Large Project Excavation or Demolition” and language outlining Marine Excavation. This House Bill was authored by Representative Vincent “Vinny” St. Blanc III and was vetted through the Dig Law Advisory Committee.

Let us begin by defining some key terms relating to these changes. They are as follows:

“Large project excavation or demolition” means excavation or demolition activity that cannot reasonably be completed within the requirements of R.S. 40:1749.13(B)(2).

“Marine excavator” means an excavator or demolisher who is performing excavation or demolition in areas such as swamps, wetlands, shallow water, waterways, rivers, bayous, bays, lakes, the sea, and arms of the sea.

“Routine excavation or demolition” means excavation or demolition that requires no more than twenty calendar days to be completed, and no more than thirty calendar days for agricultural, forestry, or marine excavation or demolition activity.

To summarize the “Large Project Excavation or Demolition” portion of this amendment, it states/clarifies some key points as listed below.


- Defines “Large Project excavation or demolition” as work that cannot be completed within 20 calendar days
 - Voluntary written agreement between excavator and facility owners/operators
 - Online entry only at Louisiana811.com
 - Requires at least 10 business days’ notice prior to the commencement of excavation or demolition
 - The ability to list any, and all, subcontractors on the ticket
 - Valid for up to 90 calendar days







The “large project excavation or demolition” should be a great tool for excavators or demolishers to use...

If mutual agreement cannot be reached between the excavator and facility owners/operators to determine the scope of work, the mark-by times, and any other details of the project, the “large project excavation or demolition” will be deemed null and void resulting in it reverting back to a routine-type ticket.

The “large project excavation or demolition” should be a great tool for excavators or demolishers to use, especially for road projects, dredging operations, single-address building construction sites, and any other similar type of work. The key component of this type of designation is the enhancement of communication between both parties outlining, in writing, details such as the marking schedule (where the excavator/demolisher will be and at what time).

To summarize the Marine Excavation portion of the Dig Law changes, it essentially changes the duration of the ticket from 20 calendar days to 30 calendar days. This slight change, coupled with the “large project excavation or demolition” should greatly assist those stakeholders who work in and around submerged infrastructure. These projects tend to be very large and extend for weeks and sometimes years to complete.

To find out more about this legislation, go to the Louisiana Legislature’s website and search for HB397 of the 2024 legislative session. There will be more information to follow between now and January 1, 2025, when this Act goes into effect, but Louisiana 811 can be a great resource if you have further questions. 



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Louisiana 811 Scholarship Winners



Jaylie Smith




Noah Barber



Blake Waguespack

We are excited to announce the recipients of the 2024 Louisiana 811 Scholarship! We received over 50 applications from graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education this fall.

We are extremely grateful for all the applicants' time and effort. Our review committee was inspired by the essays students wrote on how they would spread the word about the importance of 811 to their peers and families. 



Andrew Payne



Ella Meche

Join us in congratulating the following scholarship winners:

Noah Barber
*Pine High School,
Louisiana Tech University*

Ella Meche
*Rayne High School,
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette*

Andrew Payne
*Silliman Institute,
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette*

Jaylie Smith
*Stanley High School,
Northwestern State University*

Blake Waguespack
*Archbishop Rummel High
School,
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette*

These exceptional individuals have shown unwavering dedication to their academic pursuits and a true passion for promoting safe digging practices. Congratulations once again to all the scholarship winners! We believe you will make a remarkable impact as you continue your educational journey. Best of luck in all your future endeavors!



Don't Kill Your Agent!

By Virginia Reames, CPRO-W2

Did you happen to notice your insurance premium went up? Of course, that was only if you were lucky enough to even get a renewal offer. Has your company asked the age of your roof – mentioning if it is older than 5 years, they won't write Replacement Cost or perhaps won't cover it at all if it is 10 years old or more?

Is something going on?

As a matter of fact, insurance companies themselves don't fully know the answer to that. Weather events – tornadoes especially, wildfires, increasing costs of repair (and fewer professionals doing the repairing driving costs higher) – it's almost a chicken-or-egg scenario.

There is considerable talk to change even the function of insurance itself – from “Repair and Replace” to “Predict and Prevent”! And have actuaries and Risk Managers even been trained for that?

Personal lines - auto and dwelling/Homeowners – are seeing more and more carriers declining to write any new policies on homes; some are even reducing the number of new auto policies they will write – at least for the “time being”. So, if you get mad at your current carrier's prices, don't think you can run next door to that other company and do any better. A lot of it comes down to – again – the cost of parts and labor. Not to mention the terrifying cost of new vehicles. (Who would have ever dreamed that the cost of a pick-up truck – off the line – could possibly run 6 figures?)

And Commercial Insurance? Property coverage – we are getting info weekly about the new valuations companies are requiring per/sq.ft. Some commercial buildings are being valued (for insurance purposes) at close to \$300/sq. ft. So, 1000 sq. ft will be valued at \$300,000!

Remember, this isn't about what that building can be sold for! What's driving all this is the price to replace it if something totaled it – tornado, winds, fire (covered loss). And then where this building is located. Not the neighborhood, but is it in an area where a tornado has ever been/might ever be expected? Underwriters (the folks that

Home insurance costs for owner-occupied dwelling premiums increased an average of 11.3% in 2023, with 25 states seeing a rate change of at least 10% for the year, according to data from S&P Global.

Homeowners in Texas saw the largest rate increase in 2023 at 23.3%, followed by Arizona at 21.8% and Utah at 20.3%. Texas and Arizona are two of five states – also including Oregon, Oklahoma and Colorado – that saw double-digit rate increases in both 2022 and 2023.

price insurance according to guidelines) have a “chart” of sorts which indicates the likelihood of damaging weather in


your area. If it is likely – never mind it hasn't happened – too bad. They won't quote it for you. Sorry.

I spoke with an agent just recently, and he said “I hate the business right now! There's nothing you can do about it!” And no, it isn't “price-fixing”.

It comes down to trying to figure the premium for the risk itself – enough to pay losses, and expenses and still make a small profit. One storm in Mississippi wiped out 10 years of profit for one company. Imagine!

Your agent isn't doing this – things will get better! Just no one knows when it will. Most people know Louisiana and Florida have real insurance problems. But every state in the country has the same problems with pricing. No, they haven't all had companies go bankrupt and not pay claims. Yet the “new” look Underwriters are having to take at every piece of business on the books and revalue, sending premiums up and up, translates into problems affecting everyone that owns anything – sorta kinda like everybody.

On top of all that, properties haven't been re-valued annually at the same rate that goods and services have increased. So, never mind rate increases just getting buildings accurately valued for coverage is sending premiums skyward even without any rate increases!

It's gonna get better – but no one knows if it is this or next or (sorry!) the next year. But it will. Hang in there! 

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A Division of ACTS

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Traveling with *Louisiana* 811



LA8u presenting at American Public Works Assoc (APWA) Northshore branch celebrating Public Works week.



JP Dunbar exhibiting at Louisiana Farm Bureau Convention in New Orleans



LA8u Board of Directors John Neilson, Desoto Parish Waterworks Dist. 1, and Gerald Hoffpauir, Water Works Dist. 1 Calcasieu Parish, at Louisiana Rural Water Association annual convention in Lake Charles



LA8u exhibiting and speaking at LSU Ag Center Sugar Cane Field Days in South LA



LA8u lunch sponsor and presenter at Natchitoches Utility Coordinating Council meeting



Jeff Morrison with Donald Beck, CenterPoint Energy, at Wayne Holden & Co.



Billy Forest presenting at St. Charles Parish Govt. with Atmos Energy



LA8u presentation at ALEC (Assoc. of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives) superintendents and foremen meeting



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