

ARIZONA UTILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2015

The Arizona Utility Coordinating Committee serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge.

PRESENT

Jennifer Cannon	APS	David Cross	MCDOT
Connie Peretz	AZUCA	Dennis Aust	Chandler
Rod Bassett	Cox	Gary Parr	Valley Metro
Ryan Earwood	SRP	Jami Erickson	Phoenix
Sandra Holmes	AZ 811	Matthew Frost	Mesa
Tom Condit	Gilbert	Ray Almanzar	Phoenix
Tom Wilhite	Tempe	Ronijean Grant-Sloan	CenturyLink
Vicki Bever	ADOT	Will Fielder	SW Gas
Al Field	Al Field & Assoc.	Kevin Thompson	Mesa
Bob Trzepowski	SRP	Lyndon Boltz	Mesa
Bobby Garza	SRP	John Aker	Saddleback Communications
Chintan Jhaveri	Trace Consulting		

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

- ✓ Ryan Earwood, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.
- ✓ Introductions/Attendance sheet circulated. Quorum was met.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- ✓ August 4, 2015 meeting minutes reviewed and approved with one recommended change.

Safety Minute

- ✓ Reminder to check your wiper blades. Arizona is scheduled to have record breaking rain this winter.

Damage Prevention Topics- Sandra Holmes, Arizona 811

Sandra reviewed many Arizona 811 processes including:

- Abandoned/Unknown lines - When lines are no longer in service and physically disconnected, facility owners are still required to maintain their location on facility mapping and, when notified of upcoming excavation activity, must provide information to indicate abandoned lines exist within a job site. When an excavator uncovers an unmarked underground facility while digging even after all underground facility operators have responded to their Arizona 811 ticket, they must contact Arizona 811 to start the "Unknown Line" process. During this process, Arizona 811 must send qualified individuals to the job site to visually inspect the exposed facility to determine if it is active or abandoned.

Step 1 of an Unknown Line is to attempt to identify its owner. If the excavator indicates they believe the facility is of a certain type, then only the owners of that type of facility will be requested to visually inspect the facility. From Jan 1 – Aug 31, 2015, 89.2% of Unknown Lines were identified during Step 1.

Step 2 begins if the status of the uncovered facility remains undetermined after 2 hours, then all underground facility owners listed on the Arizona 811 ticket will receive a request to visually inspect the facility. From Jan 1 – Aug 31, 2015, 10% of Unknown Lines were identified during Step 2.

Step 3 begins if the status of the uncovered facility still remains undetermined at the conclusion of Step 2. In Step 3, a team of qualified individuals is assembled to meet on site to visually inspect the facility and determine if the facility needs to be "windowed" to determine its status. If "windowing" is necessary, then the most qualified individual is selected to complete that step. Sometimes, at Step 3, the excavator is able to find a way to work around the uncovered facility and it does not need to be windowed. From Jan 1 – Aug 31, 2015, only .8% of Unknown Lines made it to Step 3.

- HOA locating issues - HOA's have reported concerns with excess marking paint and have requested the removal of marks. Some have even taken the extra step to restrict access by locators to their communities unless they sign an agreement to remove the

markings at the conclusion of an excavation job. A form letter was drafted by the AZLRP Committee to send to HOA's to explain why marks are necessary for public safety and to request that they encourage residents not to remove them for any reason.

- Marks removal – Requests for marks removal has been identified as a growing concern. The AZLRP is currently conducting a chalk paint study as an attempt to find an alternative marking paint formula that isn't as permanent as the current ones being used. Also, recently, some municipalities have hosted various events that are televised or photographed and they have requested marks to be removed so they are not visible. When these occasions occur, municipalities must use caution before just removing marks from their streets/sidewalks. Special arrangements would need to be made with the facility owners and excavators within the area in question and arrangements for having the marks removed would need to further be agreed to in writing by both the impacted excavators and facility owners to be sure no excavating occurs after the marks are removed. The lack of making these arrangements properly can result in liability of any damages being placed on the party who improperly removed the markings.
- Campaign signs - Earlier this year, a notice was sent to affected elections offices within cities, counties and at the state level to remind them that contacting Arizona 811 prior to installing any political signs was a statutory requirement. While many of the elections offices embraced the message and provided the information to those submitting paperwork for their cause, some parties expressed concern that this requirement was a restriction of free speech. As a result, a Senator has indicated he is considering sponsoring a bill to exempt political signs from this requirement. This potential has caused some concern within the facility owner community because significant data exists indicating states with exemptions for private property or shallow excavations report much higher utility damage incidents than those which do not. Contractors who currently follow the law by contacting Arizona 811 before their excavations have also expressed concern that an exemption of this type might also increase the likelihood that they will be blamed as the origin for damages with an unknown cause. This potential occurs because many facility owners use existing 811 tickets to determine which excavators have most recently worked at a location where a damage occurred. If the party who actually caused the damage does not have an 811 ticket, but a contractor who did not damage a facility does have one, that contractor could be identified as the only one who dug in the area of the damage. Arizona 811 will be working with appropriate parties to identify a resolution to this issue with the intent of preventing the addition of any exemptions to the law.
- Landlords - In 2006, the law changed to require excavators to notify apartment and mobile home communities with 10 working days' notice via certified mail if they are going to be working within their community. There are still many of these communities who are still not registered with Arizona 811 and it is hoped that the cities could assist by providing these communities with reminders to register.
- 2015 Damage Prevention awareness efforts by Arizona 811 were reviewed to include: 1) over 30 Damage Prevention & Safety Seminars presented throughout the state; 2) using the newly wrapped Arizona 811 van as a rolling billboard with safe digging message; 3) supported the national "April is Safe Digging Month" initiative by starting a radio & TV ad campaign with a rebranding and safe digging message; 4) recognized 811 Day (August 11) by working with ADOT to include a safe digging message on their digital message boards throughout the state and by recognizing 15 contractors for using Arizona 811's E-Stake tool to create high volumes of high quality tickets with no damages; 5) worked with an industry organization to share the cost of national advertising; and, 6) helped to sponsor an initiative to incorporate the 811 message into 2015's celebrity Corn Maze at Schnepf Farms, which received significant national and local media coverage.

Nominating Committee- If you are interested in participating on this committee, contact Ryan Earwood, Dan Nissen or Connie Peretz.

2016 AUCC Budget- Reviewed expenses for 2016, the budget request will be sent by the deadline in October.

Staffing Updates

APS- Jennifer Cannon will be back filling Colin Barleycorn's role temporarily.

Other Business

APWA Education Committee – 10/28/2015 there will be a seminar on Pavement Preservation at MCDOT from 10:00 – 3:00. Registration is available online.

Next Meeting- Bring a potluck side dish to share. The AUCC will provide a main dish. Participants were encourage to download before and after pictures of their projects to the AUCC Dropbox to view at the December meeting.

Next Meeting December 1, Arizona 811, 10:00 am