



Fifteenth Annual Report

2026

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND FACILITIES
DAMAGE PREVENTION AUTHORITY

2025 State Damage
Prevention Program
Review

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**Maryland Underground
Facilities Damage
Prevention Authority 7223**
Parkway Drive, Suite 100
Hanover, MD 21076
(410) 782-2102

February 20, 2025

David Wilkins
Chairman
Utility Owner Representative

Ryan Reese
Vice - Chairman
Utility Owner Representative

Timothy Kaptein
Treasurer
Contractor Representative - AUC

Justin Lowthert
Secretary
Contract Locator Representative

Jennifer Arroyo
One-Call Center Representative

Keith Dill
Contractor Representative - PWCA

Bahareh Inanloo
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The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
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The Honorable William Ferguson President
Senate of Maryland State House, S-107
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The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Maryland House of Delegates State House, H-101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report Required by Public Utilities Article - §12-144
(**MSAR# 8340**)

Lady and Gentlemen:

As the 25-26 Chairman of the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority, I submit this Fifteenth Annual Report to you. This document serves as an outline of the Authority's activities and accomplishments for the 2025 Calendar year.

Sincerely,

David Wilkins

David Wilkins
Chairman

cc: Sarah Albert, Legislative Services

MARYLAND AUTHORITY MISSION STATEMENT



“The Authority seeks to protect underground facilities of owners in the State of Maryland from destruction, damage, or dislocation to prevent - death or injury to individuals; property damage to private and public property; and the loss of services provided to the general public.

*To accomplish this, the Authority seeks to promote, enhance, and assist the State of Maryland in enforcing the Maryland underground utility damage enforcement, effective public education, and the constant knowledge that public safety through reduced Damages is our prime concern.”**

*Pursuant to the legislative intent enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, as part of the State Underground Facilities law, Article Public Utilities, Title 12, Section 12-102, the mission statement adopted by the Authority in 2010.

The Miss Utility Statute - Brief History¹

In 1990, the General Assembly enacted the Miss Utility Statute, Md. Code (1957, 1991 Repl. Vol.), Section 28A(a) of Article 78. Its aim was to protect the public from death or injury caused by damage to underground public utility structures, including sewer, gas, oil, and water lines, and to prevent damage to those underground facilities during construction projects. It "required that all owners of underground facilities in the state-i.e., public utilities, telecommunications corporations, cable television corporations, political subdivisions, municipal corporations, steam heating companies, and authorities-become 'owner-members' of a 'one-call' system." *Reliable Contracting Co., Inc. v. Md. Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Auth.*, 222 Md. App. 683, 686, cert. granted, 444 Md. 638 (2015).¹ The contractor planned to perform any excavation or demolition work in the State, the contractor was required to notify the one-call system and could not begin excavation or demolition until it received notification that all underground facilities in the vicinity had been marked or that no underground facilities were in the vicinity of the site. *Id.*

In 2006, Congress enacted the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. § 60134 ("the PIPES Act"). That act authorized the federal Department of Transportation to allocate grants to a "State authority" to improve underground facilities damage prevention programs. 49 U.S.C. § 60134(a). Only State authorities having the power to assess civil penalties for violations of State law governing underground facilities were qualified for federal grants. See 49 U.S.C. § 60134(b)(6), (7).

In 2010, the General Assembly revised the Miss Utility Statute, consistent with the PIPES Act, to create the Authority. As relevant here, the Authority is empowered to adopt bylaws; maintain facilities for the purposes of holding hearings; employ a staff; and "do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted by this subtitle." PU§ 12-1 IO (a). It is comprised of nine members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor to staggered two-year terms. PU§ 12-107.

With the exception of one ¹ In *Reliable Contracting*, this Court rejected a challenge to the constitutionality of the provisions of the Miss Utility Statute empowering the Authority to adjudicate complaints and assess civil penalties.

¹ UNREPORTED-IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

OF MARYLAND -No. 2079

SEPTEMBER TERM, 2014

Washington SUBURBAN SANITARY Commission ET AL.

v.

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND Facilities DAMAGE Prevention AUTHORITY

Eyler, Deborah, S., Nazarian, Sharer, Frederick (Retired, Specially Assigned), JJ

Opinion by Eyler, Deborah, S., J

Filed: October 22, 2015

*This is an unreported opinion and therefore may not be cited either as precedent or as persuasive authority in any paper, brief, motion, or other document filed in this Court or any other Maryland court. Md. Rule 1-104.

 *2025 Accomplishments*

Statutory Requirements - The Authority met ten (10) times during the 2025 calendar year. Of the C/Y 2025 meetings, four (4) were the Quarterly business meetings, which are required by statute and are open to the public.

Breakdown of 2025 Offenses – In 2025, the Authority received fifty-six (56) NPVs. The Authority reviewed thirty-five (35) NPV's carried over from 2024 and another fourteen which were filed in 2025. During the 2024-35 period; ten (10) NPV's were dismissed for either no-violation, incomplete submissions or failure to pay the \$200.00 filing fee. Additionally, of those fifty-six (56) NPVs, forty-three (43) are currently under investigation and slated for review in 2025.

Tracking these types of offenses is an important tool that the Authority uses to address deficiencies in our training program, and damage trends in the field so that we may put more emphasis on these issues. Of the NPVs reviewed and reported there were:

- **§12-121- Abuse of Emergency Ticket** – There was one (1) instance of abuse of the emergency ticket report. The Authority made significant changes during the last re-write of Title 12 to try to prevent these abuses. The numbers are down significantly.
- **§12-124 -No Miss Utility Ticket** - In addition, there were thirty-three (33) instances reported, where the violator had not obtained a valid ticket for the work they intended to do. These NPV's were all first time offenses, which will require Damage Prevention training .

- **§12-125 – Repeat Notification** – There was one (1) instance of operating on an expired ticket reported.

- **§12-126 - Locating Violations** – In 2024-25 there were thirty-three (33) marking violations reported to the Authority, which in each case was due to the failure of the contract locator to mark the underground facilities within the required two (2) business days.

- **§12-127 – Exercising Due Care In and Around Underground Facilities**– There were eighteen (18) of these issues reported in 2024-25.

Civil Penalties – The Authority imposed \$85,922. 00 in 2025 in fines and collected \$30,278.00. The Authority also recommended Title XII Damage Prevention Safety training to all companies in violation of the statute or required written policy statements in order to mitigate internal shortfalls to those company’s damage prevention programs (the Authority provides Damage Prevention Training via the MD/DC DPC at no charge to the violator).

Filing Fees - The Authority collected \$3,000.00 on non-subscriber filing fees in 2025. Filing fees are set at \$200. This fee doesn’t begin to cover the true cost of conducting a full investigation and review. To take an NPV through the entire process including an appeal is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000, provided the Authority is not challenged at the Circuit Court level. Subscribers (facility owners) pay into a sinking fund on an annual basis via micro grants. These funds are reserved for subscriber filing fees and cannot be used for any other purpose.

MD Continues to be a Low Damage State - Despite an uptick nationwide in underground facility damages, and a dynamic increase in ticket volumes, Maryland remains a state with the lowest “hit rates” in the nation. The Authority attributes this statistic to a very successful Education and Outreach program. C/Y 2025 damages per 1000 Miss Utility tickets were 0.35 %. The 2024 CGA Dirt report which has a larger reporting group showed .55% per 1000 tickets transmitted. Which is still well below the nation average.

Education & Outreach - The Authority’s main focus continues to be Education and Outreach. The Authority contributed \$30,000 to the “Miss Utility” regional radio campaigns during Maryland’s Safe Digging Month (April). These radio PSA’s highlight the importance of calling 811 before digging or disturbing the earth and the demolishing of old buildings. These spots are also produced in Spanish and aired on traditional Latino radio stations. The Authority also provides materials for Damage Prevention training and other awareness activities. During C/Y 2025, one thousand four hundred and forty six. (1,446) industry workers were trained in underground safety and damage prevention practices in both languages. In addition, the Miss Utility/MD Authority Partnership now uses a virtual training module for excavators. The Authority accepts the completed certificates from excavator violators. The virtual excavator course is available in both English and Spanish on the Miss Utility website. Many of the participants were required to attend due to their company’s recent violations. These training activities are conducted in coordination with the MD/DC Damage Prevention Committee.

At these trainings, paid and volunteer industry experts address the many facets of damage prevention, best practices and safety. The Authority was also a Gold Sponsor (\$2,500.00) of the Upper Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference, which is the largest regional damage prevention conference east of the Mississippi. Supported the Maryland Municipal League by exhibiting at their 2025 Summer Conference in June and also at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference in August of 2025.

Home Owner Awareness Campaign – Beginning in June of 2023 and carrying into 2025 the Maryland Authority continues its Homeowner Awareness Campaign, utilizing funds from its 2024 PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program Grant award and funds from the Authority’s Education & Outreach fund. Homeowner kits were put together to stress the importance of calling “811” before beginning home garden projects. The Authority invested approximately \$10,000.00 in materials etc. to publicize the changes to the Title XII Statute regarding homeowner requirements. In particular the six (6) inch restriction. The Authority continues to push this program which has received considerable traction. This new section of the Title 12 statute enacted in 2022 that covers the homeowner’s responsibilities when planning a project on their property.

§12-103. - *This subtitle does not apply to an excavation not more than 6 inches in depth or demolition performed or to be performed by an owner or lessee of a private residence when the excavation or demolition is performed or to be performed:*

- (1) entirely on the land on which the private residence of the owner or lessee is located; and*
- (2) without the use of machinery.*

The Authority feels it is prudent for any homeowner in Maryland to be aware of what lies below their property, this applies to renters as well. Calling 811 for a utility locate is a simple, free service provided by the owners of public facilities.

National Homeowner Data Provided by the Common Ground Alliance...

...“Four in 10 U.S. homeowners who are planning to dig on their property this year will not contact 811 at least a few days in advance. That’s more than 49 million Americans who are putting themselves at serious risk of personal injury and utility service interruptions. It is important that anyone who plans to dig, regardless of how shallow the project is, contacts 811 beforehand to have their buried utilities marked so they can safely dig away from buried lines.”

The most popular planned projects cited among surveyed homeowners who plan to dig this year include:

- **Planting a tree or shrub: 74%**
- Building a fence: 28%
- Building a deck or patio: 24%
- Installing a mailbox: 20%
- Something else: 8%

In addition to working on projects themselves, 79.1% of homeowners said they would consider hiring a contractor to complete digging projects on their property. Of those, **82% said it was important to them that the contractor contacts 811 before digging** to have underground utilities marked with paint or flags.” (Source: *Common Ground Alliance, 2023 Safe Digging April Campaign*)

Charitable Work -The Authority is a regular contributor and volunteer to “Construction Angels”; which is a national organization whose sole purpose to give financial aid to the families in Maryland and around the country who have lost loved ones to construction related accidents. In 2025 the Authority supported the Maryland/DC Chapter of Construction Angels by being a \$262.00 sponsor of its Annual Golf Outing fundraiser. And, in 2025 became a Bronze level (\$2,500.00) sponsor for Construction Angels state level activities. The Authority feels that supporting this organization is so very important and is an integral part of the Authority’s Outreach program.



www.constructionangels.us



On behalf of the Construction Angels Charity, we are thankful for your generous donations and continuous support! We truly appreciate your participation and funding to help our organization help families of 'One of our Own' when a construction worker is killed on the job.

Construction Angels, Inc., a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization that provides immediate financial assistance and grief counseling to the children (19 years & younger) and spouse left behind when a construction worker suffers a fatality on the jobsite. We offer construction scholarship opportunities to qualified applicants, and additional scholarships to surviving children of a fallen worker. The charity began in Lighthouse Point, Florida in 2011 and currently support families in 26 States: AR, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, IA, KS, KY, MD, MI, MO, MT, NC, NE, NV, OH, SC, SD, UT, VA&WY! Our website www.constructionangels.us has an abundance of information about our charity.

We are financially supported by many companies, Organizations, Unions and Construction Associations within the industry. Our goal is to be in all 50 states by 2030. The 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated there are 7.2 million people working in the construction industry with projected steady growth over the next 10 years. OSHA reports there are well over 5,000 work site deaths each year in the USA, over 20% are in the construction industry. This is approximately 4.5 construction workers killed per working day in the USA.

Below is some information about our charity and how we are helping construction families throughout the USA today:

1. We provide \$8,000 to the spouse and children left behind when a construction worker suffers a fatality on the job site.
2. We provide \$3,000 in Angel Support (if the worker does not have a spouse or children).
3. We offer up to \$1,000 in Grief Counseling to the family.
4. We offer 3 types of Scholarships:
 1. For children who have lost a parent due to a jobsite fatality
 2. For children to retain them in the construction industry
 3. To educational organizations in the industry that need additional financial support (PPE, books, etc.)

With generous donors like you, we can continue our Mission and Vision helping 'One of our Own' in the construction industry during their time of need.

Thank you and God Bless,

Chrissy Griffin

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754-300-7220 OFFICE WWW.CONSTRUCTIONANGELS.US

How the Authority is Funded - The Authority is an independent, quasi-governmental, quasi-judicial agency of the Executive Branch of Maryland. The Authority does not receive any taxpayer dollars or grants from the State of Maryland. Funding for the Authority comes from four (4) sources, which are not consistent from year to year. A \$0.05 cent per outgoing ticket constitutes the largest portion of the Authority's funding. These funds are paid by the subscribers of the One-Call system who in turn provide locating services to anyone who files a for "ticket" through the One- Call system (811). The Facility Owner micro grants pay into a dedicated account to defray the cost of filing fees for its members. PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program grants can range from \$1.00 to \$100,000.00 and are granted based on a PHMSA appointed review panel's determination that the proposed projects meet the principles of the nine (9) elements (from their perspective) in the federal rules. In the early years of the awarding process, PHMSA allowed grants for office expenses and salaries. The criteria for the grants have narrowed over time and competition has become fierce as more states become "Adequate". In addition, PHMSA changed part of its awarding criteria to focus on non-compliant states in order to assist them with their failing programs.

C/Y 2025 Income:

- **\$0.05 cent/outgoing ticket revenue.** -In 2025, the Authority received \$192,469.80 in ticket surcharge revenues. Which was \$4,171.50 less than the previous year C/Y24.
- **PHMSA State Damage Prevention Program Grant** - \$72,693.
- **NPV filing fees.** - \$11,200.00



State Damage Prevention Grants

PHMSA is authorized to award grants to fund improvements in state damage prevention programs. Section 2 of the PIPES Act added a State Damage Prevention Grant Program to the Federal Pipeline Safety Law as 49 USC §60134. Any state authority (or municipality with respect to intrastate gas transportation) that is or will be responsible for preventing damage to underground pipeline facilities is eligible as long as 1) the state participates in the oversight of pipeline transportation pursuant to an annual 49 U.S.C. §60105 certification or 49 U.S.C. §60106 agreement in effect with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and 2) is designated by the state's governor, in writing, as the eligible recipient of the grant funding. However, to qualify for a grant under 49 U.S.C. §60106, a State one-call notification program may not exempt municipalities, State agencies, or their contractors from the one-call notification system requirements of the program.

The purpose of these grants is to establish comprehensive state programs designed to prevent damage to underground pipelines in states that do not have such programs and to improve damage prevention programs in states that do. States are encouraged to implement the following nine elements of an effective damage prevention program:

1. Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of methods for establishing and maintaining effective communications between stakeholders from receipt of an excavation notification until successful completion of the excavation, as appropriate.
2. A process for fostering and ensuring the support and partnership of stakeholders, including excavators, operators, locators, designers, and local government in all phases of the program.
3. A process for reviewing the adequacy of a pipeline operator's internal performance measures regarding persons performing locating services and quality assurance programs.
4. Participation by operators, excavators, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective employee training programs to ensure that operators, the one-call center, the enforcing agency, and the excavators have partnered to design and implement training for the employees of operators, excavators, and locators.
5. A process for fostering and ensuring active participation by all stakeholders in public education for damage prevention activities.
6. A process for resolving disputes that defines the State authority's role as a partner and facilitator to resolve issues.
7. Enforcement of State damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate State authority.
8. A process for fostering and promoting the use, by all appropriate stakeholders, of improving technologies that may enhance communications, underground pipeline locating capability, and gathering and analyzing information about the accuracy and effectiveness of locating programs.
9. A process for review and analysis of the effectiveness of each program element, including a means for implementing improvements identified by such program reviews.



The NPV Process

**Operating Practices of the
Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority**

NPV Procedures 4.0 (Adopted 2022)

1. Upon receipt of a Notice of Probable Violation (NPV) from the plaintiff, the Authority verifies the contact and incident information contained in the on-line submittal for sufficiency and accuracy and then notifies the probable violator via Notice of Investigation (NOI) and the plaintiff via Notice of Receipt (NOR) by regular USPS mail. The probable violator is encouraged to contact the Authority upon receiving the NOI letter, in order to provide additional information.
2. The Executive Director shall complete a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the facts surrounding the NPV. The Executive Director shall determine whether they believe a violation of Subtitle 1 of Title 12 of the Maryland Public Utilities Article has occurred and a penalty is due based on such investigation. In its March 28, 2016, decision in *Reliable Contracting v. Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority* upholding the constitutionality of the Authority.

The Maryland Court of Appeals directed the Authority to use the following three factors to determine the amount of any penalty assessed by the Authority:

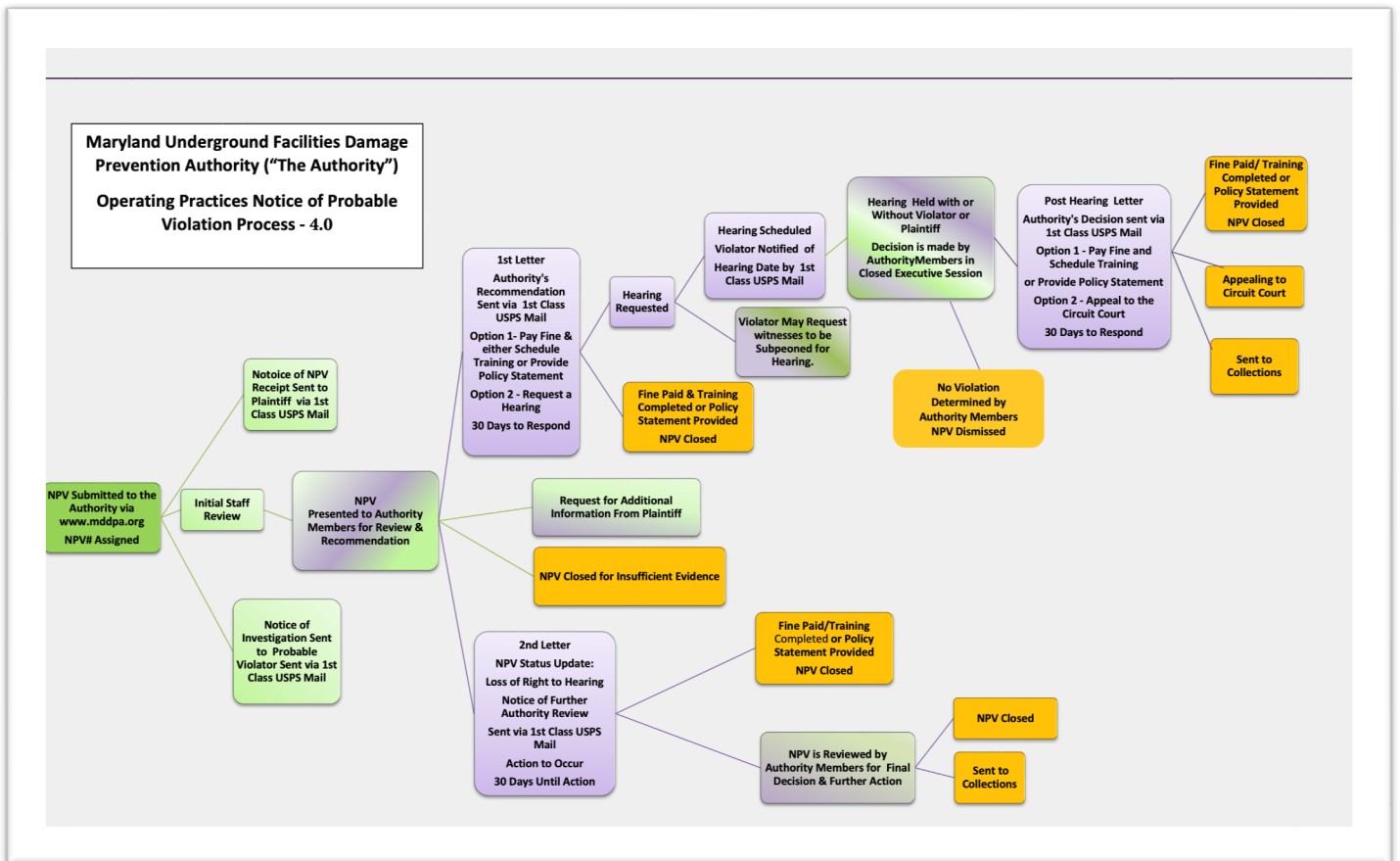
- a) seriousness of the violation:*
- b) intent ("good faith") of the violator,*
- c) past history of violations.*

The Authority used these factors to create a Standardized Fining Matrix ("SFM"). The Executive Director shall use the SFM to determine the amount of the penalty to recommend to the Authority.

3. The Executive Director shall then present the entire review of the NPV together with all supporting documentation and the SFM calculations to the Authority at its next regularly scheduled closed Executive Session. At that meeting, the Authority will decide whether a civil penalty and/or training should be imposed, or any other type of requirement that is indicated. Or the Authority may: (a) request additional investigation to acquire more information and documentation for further review of the NPV before making a decision, or (b) dismiss the NPV for (i) lack of documented violation, (ii) lack of documented probable violator, (iii) lack of sufficient evidence and documentation to proceed with any further investigation or (c) any reason the Authority may deem reasonable for not proceeding with any further investigation or review of the NPV.

4. If the Authority determines that a civil penalty and/or training or other requirement should be imposed after the official review, the Executive Director shall notify the probable violator of the Authority's determination by 1st class USPS mail using the best possible address information. The "Post Review Recommendation" letter shall include the possible effects of §12-135 of the Maryland Public Utilities Article, which include the probable violator's rights, remedies and options, and the Maryland's Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and how it impacts the Authority's hearing process. The notice shall request that the probable violator contact the Authority within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice and offer the violator the opportunity to pay their fine and undertake damage prevention training; and/or pay their fine and provide a company policy statement which contains remedies to mitigate any future violations. The probable violator may choose to request a formal hearing before the Authority members, in order to defend their case.
5. If the probable violator does not respond to the Authority's Post Review Recommendation letter, the Executive Director will send a "Final Action" letter via 1st class USPS mail, indicating that the probable violator has lost the right to request a formal hearing before the Authority members. In addition, the NPV will then be put before within the next thirty (30) days for further evaluation and a final decision. This action can result in a collection action by a third party. Once placed into collections, the probable violator will no longer have the opportunity to negotiate with the Authority.
6. If a hearing is requested within the allotted time period, the Executive Director shall notify the plaintiff and probable violator of the date and time of the hearing via 1st class USPS mail. At the hearing, the Executive Director will present the official evidence regarding the probable violation. The probable violator shall have the opportunity to submit evidence and present a defense. The Executive Director, the probable violator, plaintiff and any witnesses shall be sworn in by the Chairman of the Authority, prior to the proceedings. All testimony shall be given under oath, and the proceedings shall be recorded. If the plaintiff or probable violator fail to appear, that fact shall be noted, and the hearing shall proceed. The Authority may assess a fine of \$200 for failure to appear.
7. Once the hearing is concluded, the Authority shall meet in closed Executive Session in order to determine whether: A) a penalty should be assessed against the probable violator and, B) if the penalty should be assessed, the amount of such penalty, using the SFM. The Authority may determine that instead of or in addition to a penalty, it will require the probable violator to participate in Damage Prevention training. The Authority shall issue a decision in writing, stating the reason for its decision.
8. The Executive Director will send a copy of the written decision of the Authority to the probable violator by 1st class USPS mail and shall notify the probable violator of the right of any person aggrieved by a decision of the Authority to request a judicial review by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland within thirty (30) days after receiving the decision. (Note: If at any time during these time frames, the Authority receives payment for the civil fine and notification of participation in Title XII training and/or receipt of a signed policy statement, the case will be closed).

9. Any probable violator who does not fulfill each of the requirements set down by the Authority, will be placed in a Closed/Incomplete Status. The Authority has the ability to use the information contained in that Closed/Incomplete NPV as evidence when applying SFM standards in any future probable violations committed by this person up to three (3) years after the original violation. In addition, any company placed in the Closed/Incomplete status will have the name of their company, county of their business and the reason for being placed in the Closed/Incomplete status. This information will be posted as a company “Not in Good Standing” with the Authority on the Authority website for a period of three (3) years.





2025 Damage Data

2025 MD/DC Subscribers Damage Summary Report
County Annual

| YEAR TO DATE AS OF | | DECEMBER | | REPORTED PROBLEM | | | | | County Ratio Damages per 1000 Locates |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|------|---------------------------------------------|
| | | | | TYPE OF LINE | | REPORTED CAUSE | | | |
| County | Member Reported Tickets | Main | Service | No Call or Ticket | Hit Marked Line | Line Marked Wrong | Other | | |
| Allegany | 16,597 | 4 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1.0 | |
| Anne Arundel | 114,730 | 70 | 76 | 57 | 31 | 47 | 11 | 1.3 | |
| Balt City | 85,230 | 27 | 109 | 21 | 39 | 47 | 29 | 1.6 | |
| Balt County | 111,022 | 44 | 117 | 38 | 42 | 60 | 21 | 1.5 | |
| Calvert | 17,845 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0.6 | |
| Carroll | 35,339 | 8 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 0.6 | |
| Cecil | 20,189 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0.5 | |
| Charles | 57,428 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0.4 | |
| Frederick | 103,256 | 12 | 40 | 17 | 20 | 9 | 5 | 0.5 | |
| Garrett | 10,856 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0.9 | |
| Harford | 61,391 | 9 | 22 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 0.5 | |
| Howard | 65,700 | 35 | 45 | 19 | 21 | 32 | 8 | 1.2 | |
| Montgomery | 402,484 | 66 | 168 | 67 | 78 | 78 | 11 | 0.6 | |
| Prince Georges | 358,176 | 58 | 119 | 48 | 54 | 63 | 11 | 0.5 | |
| St. Mary's | 33,617 | 5 | 18 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0.7 | |
| Washington | 37,496 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 0.9 | |
| Wash DC | 304,518 | 19 | 138 | 37 | 60 | 57 | 4 | 0.5 | |
| Member Reported Tickets | 1,835,874 | 395 | 927 | 368 | 403 | 426 | 125 | 1322 | |
| CC Transmitted Tickets | 4,925,891 | Total Damages | | Percentage by Cause | | | | | |
| Reporting % | 37.27% | 1322 | | 27.84% | 30.48% | 32.22% | 9.46% | | |
| | | # Tickets | | Damages per 10,000 Tickets Received | | | | | |
| Member Reported Tickets | 1,835,874 | | | 2.00 | 2.20 | 2.32 | 0.68 | 7.20 | |
| CC Transmitted Tickets | 4,925,891 | | | 0.75 | 0.82 | 0.86 | 0.25 | 2.68 | |
| | | # Tickets | | Damages per 1,000 Tickets Received | | | | | |
| Member Reported Tickets | 1,835,874 | | | 0.20 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.07 | 0.72 | |
| CC Transmitted Tickets | 4,925,891 | | | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.27 | |



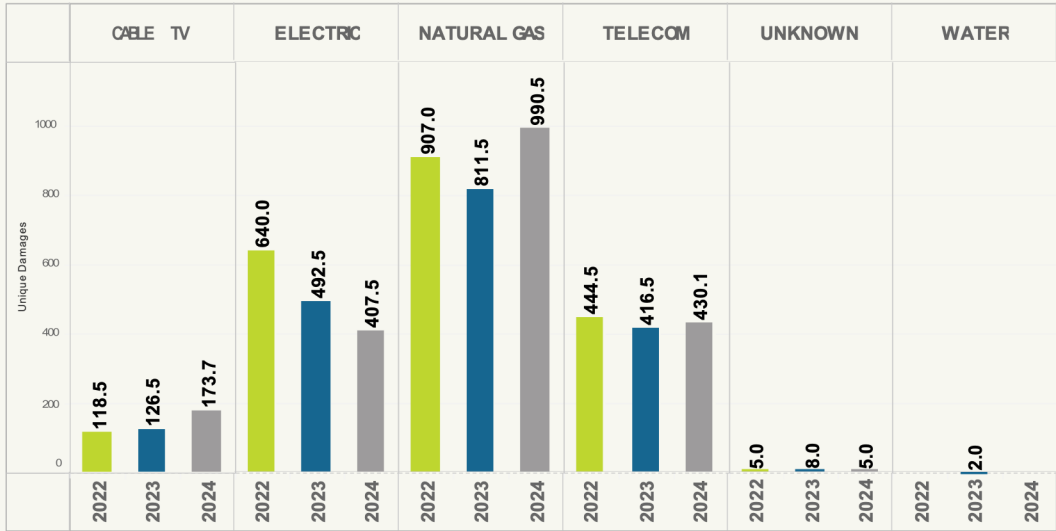
Year-to-Year Guidance: This tab provides year-to-year trend information on unique damages. Users can filter additional attributes of damages by using the filters & controls section of the dashboard. Hover over objects to see additional information.

Filters & Controls

- Year
All
- Country
All
- State/Province**
Maryland
- Root Cause Group
All
- Equipment Type
All
- Event Source
All
- Facility Damaged
All
- Facility Type Affected
All
- Work Performed
All
- Excavator Type
All
- Remove Unknown
Show Unknown
- Reset All Filters

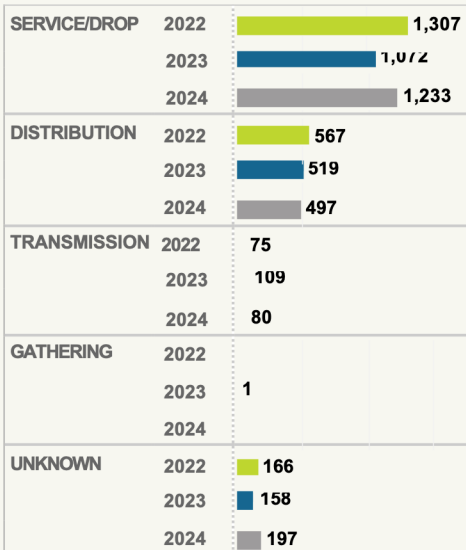
Facility Damaged Over Time
All Reported Unique Damages: 5,979

Reset Filter



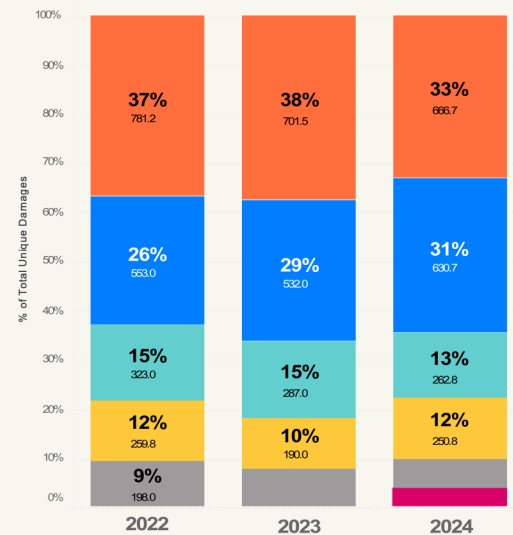
Facility Type Affected Over Time

Reset Filter



Root Cause Group Over Time

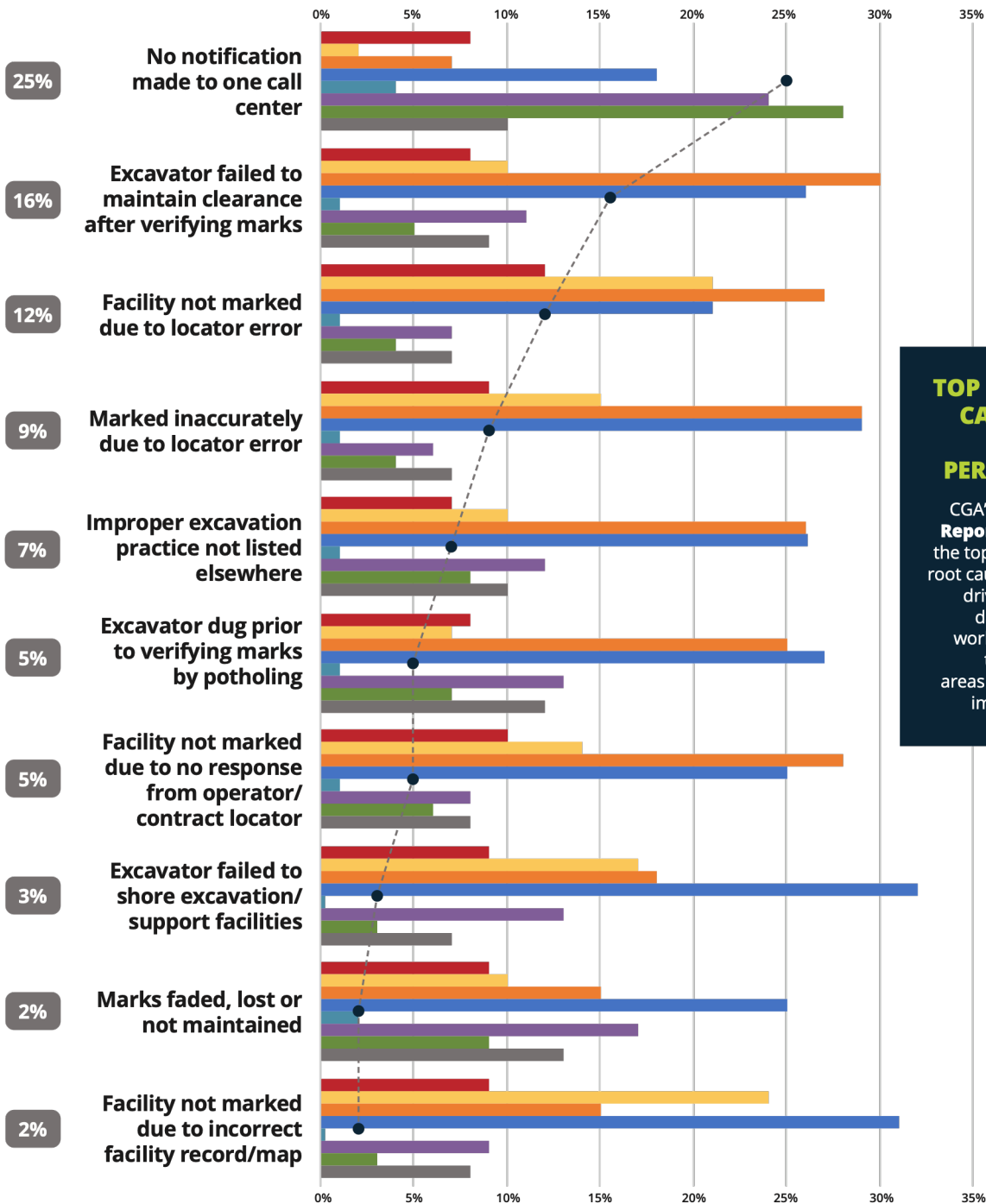
Reset Filter



CGA DIRT DIRT REPORT 2024

Top 10 Root Cause Distribution by Work Performed

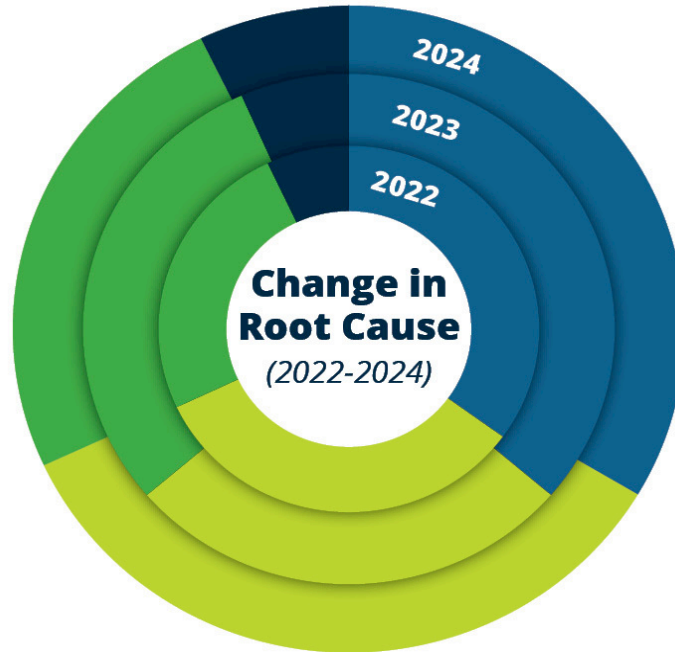
UTILITY WORK PERFORMED: ■ Electric ■ Natural Gas ■ Telecom/CATV ■ Water/Sewer ■ Fencing/Landscaping ■ Street/Roadway
 NON-UTILITY WORK PERFORMED: ■ Agriculture/Irrigation ■ Construction/Development ■ Fencing/Landscaping ■ Street/Roadway



TOP 10 ROOT CAUSES BY WORK PERFORMED

CGA's 2024 DIRT Report examined the top 10 damage root causes – which drive 85% of all damages – by work performed to illuminate areas for targeted improvement.

Change in Root Cause



- Locating Practices
- Excavation Practices
- No Locate Request
- Invalid Use of Request by Excavator

2024 Top 25 Individual Damage Root Causes (Excluding Unknown)

| Rank | Root Cause | 2024 Reports | % of Total | 2023 Comparison |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | No locate request | 35,402 | 24.54% | ↓ -1.69 |
| 2 | Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks | 23,183 | 16.07% | ↑ 0.95 |
| 3 | Facility not marked due to locator error | 17,220 | 11.94% | ↓ -2.49 |
| 4 | Marked inaccurately due to locator error | 12,378 | 8.58% | ↑ 1.35 |
| 5 | Improper excavation practice not listed elsewhere | 9,731 | 6.75% | ↓ -1.45 |
| 6 | Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by potholing | 7,129 | 4.94% | ↑ 0.33 |
| 7 | Facility not marked due to no response from operator/contract locator | 6,795 | 4.71% | ↑ 1.37 |
| 8 | Excavator failed to shore excavation/support facilities | 4,710 | 3.27% | ↑ 0.38 |
| 9 | Marks faded, lost or not maintained | 3,133 | 2.17% | ↓ -0.15 |
| 10 | Facility not marked due to incorrect facility record/map | 3,121 | 2.16% | ↑ 0.20 |
| 11 | Site marked but incomplete at damage location | 3,063 | 2.12% | ↑ 0.15 |
| 12 | Excavator dug after valid ticket expired | 3,005 | 2.08% | ↑ 0.18 |
| 13 | Excavator dug prior to valid start date/time | 2,747 | 1.90% | ↑ 0.32 |
| 14 | Excavator dug outside area described on ticket | 2,691 | 1.87% | ↓ -0.13 |
| 15 | Facility marked inaccurately due to incorrect facility record/map | 2,257 | 1.56% | ↑ 0.06 |
| 16 | Facility not marked due to unlocateable facility | 2,085 | 1.45% | ↑ 0.01 |
| 17 | Facility marked inaccurately due to tracer wire issue | 1,129 | 0.78% | ↑ 0.32 |
| 18 | Excavator provided incorrect notification information | 1,102 | 0.76% | ↑ 0.08 |
| 19 | Facility not marked due to abandoned facility | 1,001 | 0.69% | ↓ -0.01 |
| 20 | Facility marked inaccurately due to abandoned facility | 731 | 0.51% | ↓ -0.01 |
| 21 | Previous damage | 510 | 0.35% | ↑ 0.07 |
| 22 | Deteriorated facility | 380 | 0.26% | ↑ 0.07 |
| 23 | Facility not marked due to tracer wire issue | 331 | 0.23% | ↓ -0.01 |
| 24 | One Call Center error | 240 | 0.17% | ↑ 0.04 |
| 25 | Improper backfilling | 170 | 0.12% | ↑ 0.04 |



About CGA

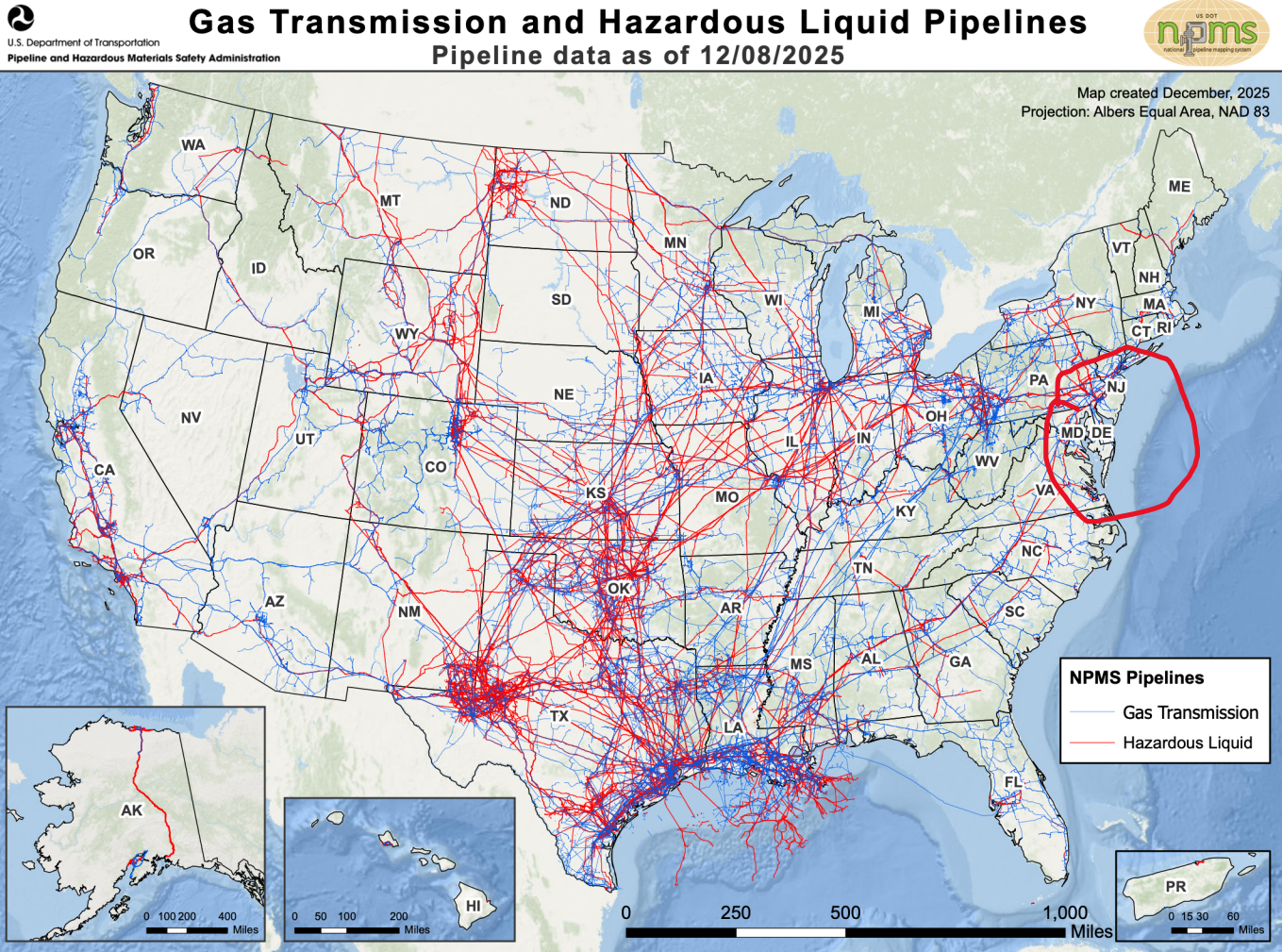
Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to North American underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices of today and tomorrow. CGA is a member-driven association of nearly 4,000 members who are damage prevention professionals in every facet of the underground utility industry. Membership in the CGA is open to all stakeholders with a genuine interest in reducing damages to the underground infrastructure. CGA's top-tier members represent some of the largest companies and organizations in North America.

CGA is managed by the association's Board of Directors, and its staff is led by President and CEO Sarah Magruder Lyle. In promoting a spirit of shared responsibility, the CGA welcomes all stakeholders who would like to be a part of finding solutions to our damage prevention challenges. Any best practice or program endorsed by the CGA comes with consensus support from experts representing the following stakeholder groups: Excavators, Locators, Road Builders, Electric, Telecommunications, Oil, Gas Distribution, Gas Transmission, One Call, Public Works, Equipment Manufacturing, State Regulators, Insurance, Emergency Services and Engineering/Design.



Mission

The Common Ground Alliance is dedicated to preventing damage to underground utility infrastructure and protecting those who live and work near these important assets through the shared responsibility of our stakeholders.

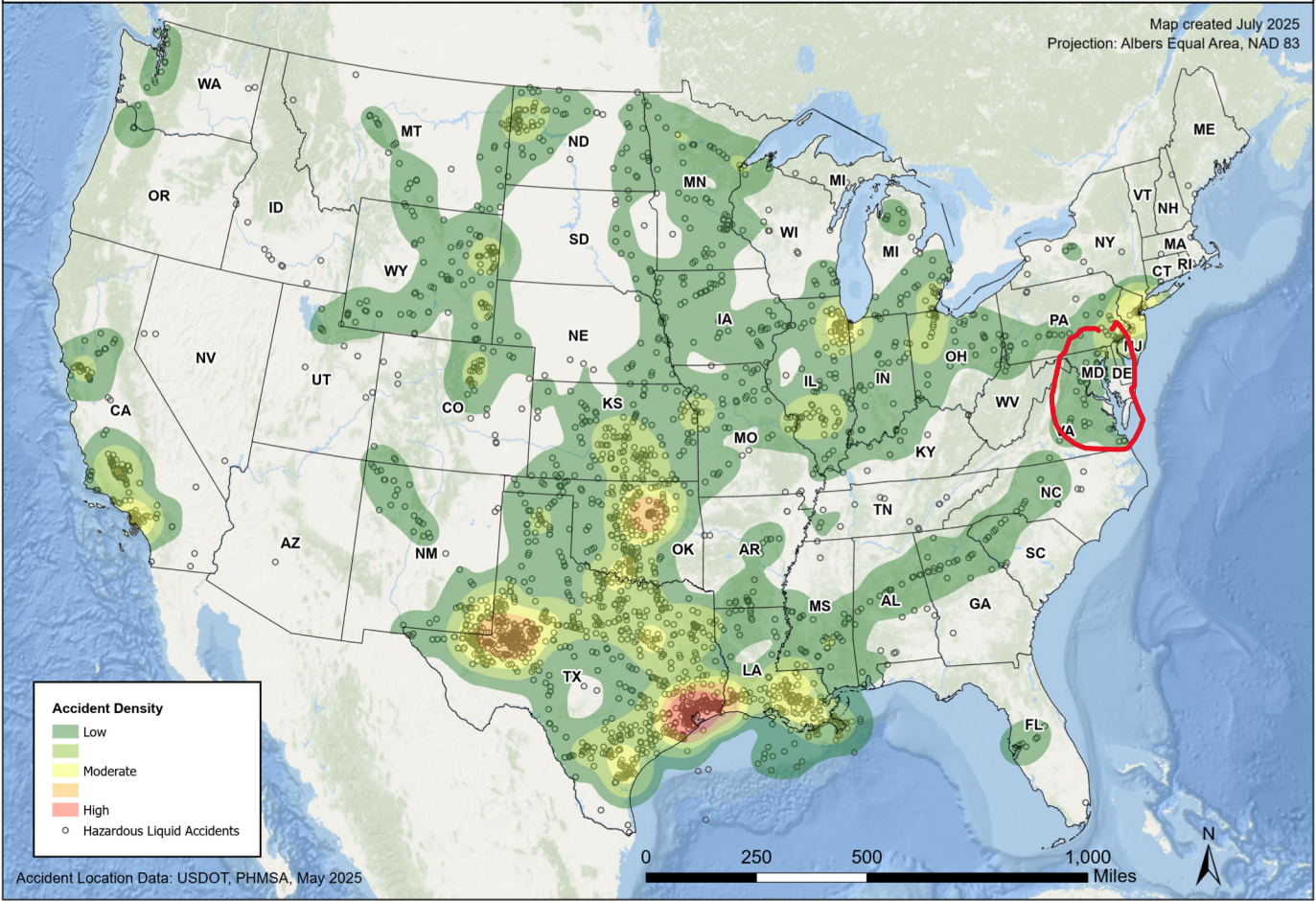


Source – US Department of Transportation = Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA)

Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Accident Heat Map 2010 - Present



Map created July 2025
Projection: Albers Equal Area, NAD 83



Accident Density

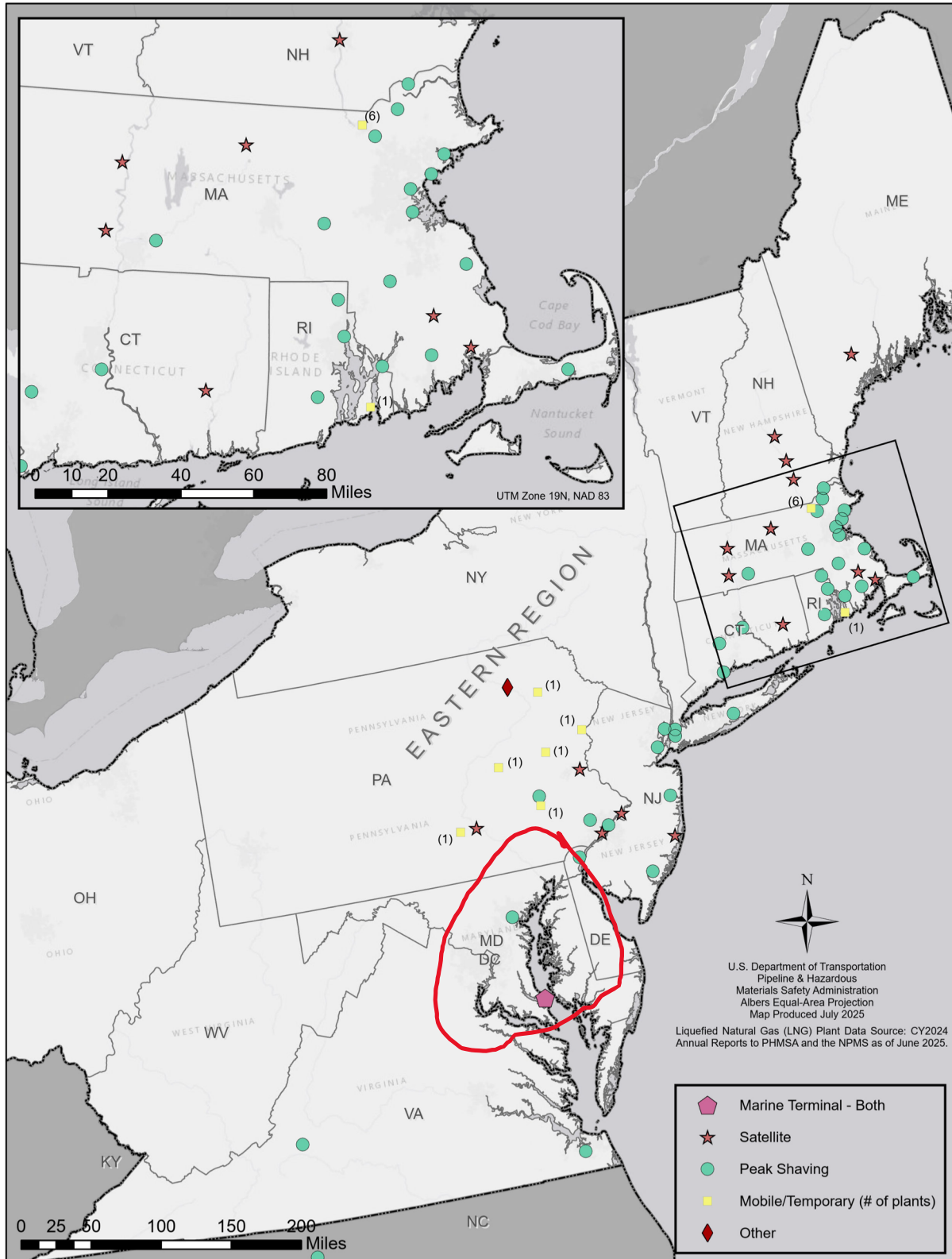
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Hazardous Liquid Accidents

Accident Location Data: USDOT, PHMSA, May 2025

LNG Plants Connected to Natural Gas Pipeline Systems

Eastern Region

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



Z:\Maps\LNG_Maps\PHMSA_Website_LNG



Federal Oversight

Federal Oversight - The Authority is overseen by the U.S. Department of Transportation's office of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the federal rules governing the state-based compliance programs (Rule 9), known as State Damage Prevention Programs, of which the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority is such a program.

PHMSA's Mission

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) operates in a dynamic and challenging environment. The scope and complexity of our safety mission will continue to grow, requiring that we fundamentally rethink how we will use data, information, and technology to achieve our safety goals.

In this context, PHMSA's leadership team has updated the agency's strategic framework. As part of this work, we have developed bold new vision and mission statements that better reflect our focus on innovation, and how essential PHMSA's safety mission is to the daily lives of Americans - allowing for the safe transportation of energy that heats our homes and powers our mobile devices.

Mission

PHMSA's mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. To do this, the agency establishes national policy, sets and enforces standards, educates, and conducts research to prevent incidents. We also prepare the public and first responders to reduce consequences if an incident does occur.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

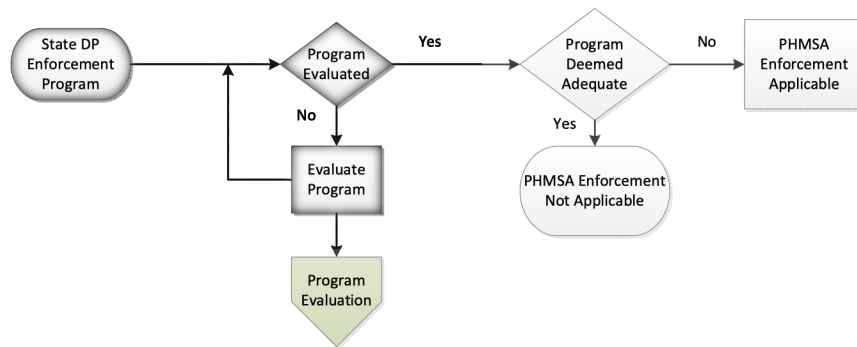
Phone: [202-366-4433](tel:202-366-4433) If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Annual PHMSA Audit - PHMSA conducts an annual review or audit in all 50 states and the territories to see if enforcement of the federal rules are being applied properly, equitably and effectively. The Authority was evaluated in 2025 for the seventh (7) time since the audits began. This year's audit was for C/Y 2024 (the federal government's evaluations run one-year behind real time). The goal of the review was to determine whether the Maryland Damage Prevention Program is "Adequate" or "Inadequate" (federal government terminology). **Once again, the Authority was deemed "Adequate", receiving a score of 258 out of 258 points.** The Authority has strived to receive a full score since the inception of the Evaluation Program.

PHMSA Federal Enforcement Programs Audit*

State Damage Prevention Enforcement Program Adequacy

- Reference: 49 CFR 198 Subpart D
- Note: 49 USC 60114(f) limitation is not applicable to PHMSA 1st and 2nd party excavator enforcement



* Source: USDOT – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 26, 2025

Via Email

Mr. James A. Barron
Senior Executive Director
MD Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority
7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100
Hanover, MD 21076

Mr. Barron:

On August 26, 2025, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the enforcement by the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority of the Maryland excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA determined that enforcement of the Maryland excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."¹

As a reminder, PHMSA requests that each State continue to review its laws, definitions of "excavation," and relevant best practices to determine whether onshore submerged facilities, dredging, and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities are included. This request is based on recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) after a 16-inch liquid propane pipeline was damaged by a dredging vessel on August 21, 2020.² Please ensure that your State has the legal authority and procedures in place to preserve public safety during dredging operations and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities.

PHMSA appreciates your dedication to pipeline safety. As you are aware, excavation damage remains a leading cause of pipeline failures, some of which result in fatalities, serious injuries, and environmental damage. Nationwide statistics show that effective enforcement of State damage prevention laws reduces excavation damage and pipeline incidents, thereby enhancing public safety.

¹ PHMSA will only deem a state as either "adequate" or "inadequate."

² See NTSB Report MAR21/05 dated December 7, 2021, *Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Strike and Subsequent Explosion and Fire aboard Dredging Vessel Waymon Boyd*

Mr. Barron
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Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. David Appelbaum, Senior Transportation Specialist, PHMSA, at (202) 617-6329 or by email at David.Appelbaum@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Zach Barrett
Director, State Programs

Cc: Executive Director Michael Jewell (Michael.jewell@mddpa.org)
Deputy Director Susan Ann Mary Stroud (susan.stroud@mddpa.org)



General Information

2025-26

MARYLAND UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION AUTHORITY

MEMBERS

(Appointed by Governor Wes Moore)

Robert Keesling
Exp. 9/30/2027
(1st Term)

General Public (Worcester County) Retired

Timothy Kaptein
Exp. 9/30/2026
(1st Term)

Assoc. Utility Contractors of Maryland
Comer Construction

Bahareh Inanloo
Exp. 9/30/2027
(2nd Term)

Maryland Association of Counties
Montgomery County, MD

Hal Metzler
Exp. 9/30/2026
(1st Term)

Maryland Municipal League
Mt. Ranier, MD

David Wilkins
Chairman
Exp. 9/30/2027
(2nd Term)

Underground Facility Owner
WSSC/Water Division

Justin Lowthert
Secretary
Exp. 9/30/2027
(1st Term)

Contract Locator
Utiliquest

Ryan Reese
Vice Chairman
Exp. 9/30/2027
(1st Term)

Underground Facility Owner
Washington Gas

Jennifer Arroyo
Exp. 9/30/2026
(2nd Term)

One Call Centers
One Call Concepts, Inc.

Keith Dill
Exp. 9/30/2027
(2nd Term)

Public Works Contractors Assn.
David A. Bramble, Inc.

Public Utilities Article §12-107. Membership – All Authority members are appointed by the Governor of Maryland and must represent specific entities and organizations. The Authority strives for diversity in its membership (geographically, racially and sexual orientation) in order to best represent the State of Maryland and its people.

2026 Authority Meeting Calendar

Miss tility, Conference Center
7223 Parkway Drive
Hanover, Maryland

ALL OPEN SESSIONS BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.
(Hearings on Probable Violations are held during the open portion of the meetings)

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | January 14th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (4th Quarter Business Mtg & Election of Officers) |
| General Assembly | January 14th - April 13th | Annapolis, MD |
| Wednesday | February 11th | Open Session & Closed Executive (Possible Hearings) MGH Filming |
| Wednesday | March 11th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (Possible Hearings) |
| Wednesday | April 15th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (1st Quarter Business Mtg) |
| CGA Conference | April 27th – 30th | Colorado Springs, CO. |
| Wednesday | May 13th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session |
| Wednesday | June 10th | Closed Executive Session |
| MML Conference | June 14th – 17th | Ocean City, MD |
| Wednesday | July 8 th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (Possible Hearings) |
| Wednesday | August 12th | No Meetings/Office Closed |
| MACo Conference | August 12th – 15th | Ocean City, MD |
| Wednesday | September 9th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (2 nd Quarter Business Mtg.) |
| Wednesday | October 14th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (Possible Hearings) |
| GCDPC | October 20th-23rd | Ocean City, MD |
| Wednesday | November 11th | Open Session & Closed Executive Session (3rd Quarter Business Mtg.) |
| Wednesday | December 9th | Closed Executive Session Only |

Authority Staff

Michael I. Jewell
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Phone: 410-782-2102
Email: michael.jewell@mddpa.org

Susan Ann Mary Stroud
Deputy Director
Phone: 410-782-2103
Email: susan.stroud@mddpa.org

The Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority
7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100
Hanover, Maryland 21076
Phone: 410-782-2102
web address: www.mddpa.org
email: info@mddpa.org



Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration



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