DigAlert Newsline
Underground Service Alert of Southern California
Year End 2019

EPR - Coming in 2021
AB1166 was signed by Governor Newsom which makes electronic positive response (EPR) through the notification center mandatory beginning January 1, 2021. The Dig Safe Board is working on emergency regulations to allow extensions to members that show good cause. The extension will only be good until December 31, 2021.
Mandatory EPR is a win-win for both members and excavators.
Members win because they can easily communicate to the excavator that they have marked lines, they don’t have lines in conflict, or they have an issue with accessing the site.
Excavators win because they can get all the responses in a single location. They will no longer have to check on site for markings, check emails that may have gone into spam, or check voice messages. Once responses have been completed, excavators can proceed with their job as they have waited the required time AND confirmed response from all members notified.

Members of DigAlert that locate more than one (1) facility type and currently only have one (1) member code will need to have a separate code for each type of facility they mark. Example: Best City has water, power and traffic signals that they locate. Best City will need three (3) separate codes as water is marked in blue, electric wouldn’t be marked as it’s overhead in the area and traffic signals would be marked in orange. Breaking up by type of facility makes it easier for members to respond electronically and excavators know exactly what type of lines are in their proposed work area. What a perfect time to update your shape files with DigAlert.

There are multiple avenues for members to input their responses from the DigAlert Mobile App, to the DigAlert website, to ticket management systems that interface directly with DigAlert servers. If you are interested in a ticket management system contact DigAlert at 951-808-8198.

Just as important as the response is what each response means. Continue to visit docs.digalert.org as we update this information to include a few more codes than are currently available.

18 Million Ticket Gets a BIG Check
DigAlert celebrated taking it’s 18 millionth ticket on August 7th, 2019. In honor of each million tickets, DigAlert gives a cash prize to the person creating the ticket and the operator that processes the ticket. The 18 millionth ticket offers an $1,800.00 payout to each person. When Cody from the County of San Bernardino renewed his tickets using the DigAlert mobile app he had no idea that one of his tickets would be the lucky ticket. Since he used the mobile, he was both the “caller” and the “operator”, so he won the combined $3,600 grand prize for both. Of course, it took some convincing to make Cody understand this wasn’t a scam and honestly in today’s age we completely understand. Vice President, Jim Schwilk, met Cody in Victorville for the presentation photos and the prize. Who will be the next winner for the 19 millionth ticket for $1,900.00 each? Keep doing those tickets and find out.

Cody Cessna, left, receives his BIG check from DigAlert Vice President Jim Schwilk
New Excavation Safety Regulations Take Effect in 2020

Kerstin Lock Tomlinson – Dig Safe Board Education & Outreach Officer

The new year will bring changes to excavation safety law in California, when a series of Dig Safe Board regulations take effect. The changes tackle everything from contact information, damage reporting, and enforcement to power tool use in the tolerance zone, electronic positive response, and areas of continual excavation. A brief overview of each of these changes is outlined below:

**Mandatory Damage Reporting**
Starting April 1, 2020, excavators will be required to report the following damages to the Dig Safe Board no later than two hours after knowledge of damage:
- damages to any natural gas or hazardous liquid facility,
- damages to any high priority facility, and
- damages that result in injuries requiring medical treatment or death.
Notifications will be made through the one-call centers via an online form, mobile application, or phone.

**Electronic Positive Response**
Starting January 1, 2021 all operators will be required to use electronic positive response to better communicate locate and mark activities. The Board is currently working on a new set of regulations that will allow facility owners with good cause to apply for an extension of up to one year to become compliant. Draft regulations were presented at the Board’s December meeting, with the Board beginning to accept extension applications in summer.

**Power Tools in the Tolerance Zone**
Starting July 1, 2020, excavators will be allowed to use clay spades in the tolerance zone to determine the exact location of an underground facility. The Board’s upcoming regulations define the tool specifications and conditions that excavators must follow without requiring prior confirmation from the operators. If the available methods for confirming a facility’s location don’t work, the excavator and operator must discuss and agree to the appropriate way to safely proceed.

**Area of Continual Excavation**
Starting July 1, 2020, farmers and specific flood control operations will have the option to request a year-long “Area of Continual Excavation” ticket through the one-call centers. If the ticket prompts an onsite meeting, operators are required to meet with the farmer or flood control district to discuss and agree how to safely operate over the line. Both the excavator and operator will need to send a knowledgeable representative to the meeting and complete an agreement form.

**Valid Contact Information**
In 2020, all one-call center members will be required to maintain valid and current contact information, including a valid name, phone number, and email address of an individual or business unit that can reach a person authorized to respond to questions about determining the location of an underground facility. Similarly, excavators will be required to maintain accurate information for the duration of their tickets.

To review the full regulation text and requirements, head to the Dig Safe Board’s website: digsafe.fire.ca.gov.

direct.digalert.org is here

After many years in development DigAlert Direct is finally here. Many companies did not want to have the previous version of web ticket entry loaded on their computers. No more executables needed.

DigAlert Direct lets you create tickets online, without waiting on hold and if your location is found on the map, your ticket number is issued immediately. 24/7 365 days a year. Why not try it today?
For many years, representatives of stakeholders from California’s excavation community frequently met to identify and discuss issues impacting excavation activities. The primary objective of these discussions is centered on finding mutual agreements by establishing trust and understanding among the participating stakeholders. Beginning in 2016, the stakeholder group - along with its structure, operations, and objectives - was formalized and incorporated as the California Regional Common Ground Alliance (CARCGA).

CARCGA is now a 501(c)(6) non-profit mutual benefit corporation which, as a regional partner of the national Common Ground Alliance, promotes effective underground damage prevention practices in California. The structure enables CARCGA to better coordinate the important work of its sub-committees which seek to develop and implement best practices in excavation activities. CARCGA sub-committees consist of:

- **Legislative & Regulatory** – Encourages and tracks legislation that affects the facility owners and the excavating community.
- **Education & Marketing** – Promotes membership in the CARCGA and educates the facility owners and excavating community about damage prevention.
- **Subsurface Safety & Incident Prevention** – Examines excavating best practices for recommendations for safe digging

CARCGA is recognized as the premier underground damage prevention organization in California advocating for improved industry standards, fairness in the enforcement process and effective education which allows all in the excavation community to be aware of regulations and best practices for complying with California’s One-Call Law (Government Code Section 4216).

The work of CARCGA members is helping define and shape California’s future regarding safe excavation practices, regulations, and enforcement. To continue improving its work, it is essential to get input from all stakeholders to better inform CARCGA of issues of concern and, in turn, enable CARCGA to better

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CARCGA continued...

advocate for excavation practices that assure safety at optimum costs.

Associate Members support the purpose and activities and can participate in CARCGA committees but cannot vote, serve on the Board of Directors, or serve as a Chair or Vice-Chair of a committee. There is no cost to become an Associate Member. Stakeholder Members can vote, be elected to serve on the CARCGA Board, and can be designated as Chair or Vice-Chair of any committee. Dues for Stakeholder Members are $100 per year per company.

We look forward to welcoming you and/or your organization as a new CARCGA member and sharing your experience and concerns to make CARCGA an even stronger safety advocate. Please join CARCGA today as an Associate or Stakeholder Member. For more information please email: info@carcga.org

Safety Presentation

With changes in 4216 and new Dig Safe Board regulations, do you know all of the new requirements for a safe excavation?

If the answer is no or maybe, you should arrange a visit from Safety Awareness Director, Amber Dahl. Amber will come to your company and provide a presentation that should answer any questions you may have.

Contact Amber at amber@digalert.org

“An hour presentation with answers to your questions. Presentations are FREE.”

CARCGA Mock Line Strike

To bring attention to 811 day, on 8-9 at the Orange County Fire Authority, CARCGA held a demonstration to show how many resources are needed when safe digging practices aren’t followed.

A Diamond Gem

When the Dig Safe Act of 2016 was passed, section 4216.4(d) was added. This section, while small, is truly the basis of all excavation projects - communication and respect for excavators, operators and locators.

Communication and respect can take many different avenues: delineating only the area to be excavated, getting a ticket for only the area that can reasonably be finished in 28 days, accurately marking, discussing the path of longer or complex jobs with the locator.

Life doesn’t happen in a vacuum nor do excavations. While you may know how your project is supposed to progress, everyone else involved in your safe excavation process may not. Everyone has a job to do but not working together and trying to understand the other persons requirements is not in the interest of safe digging. While each company has their own requirements, there still should be room for respect of each other.

With the Dig Safe Board beginning investigations of possible violations in 2020, all involved in safe digging will need to be following all the rules and regulations about digging safely.

The communication and respect requirement of 4216.4 (d) is very important so that all involved with safe excavations can go home at the end of the day.
Founded in 1976, Underground Service Alert of Southern California is a state mandated regional notification center for anyone planning to excavate in Inyo, Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara or Ventura counties.

Our mission is to prevent damage to underground infrastructure through advocacy, education and operation of an effective, efficient communications link between excavators and owners of underground infrastructure.

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Those Crazy Critters at the Rose Parade 1/1/2020

“The Power of Safety FIRST”