

Underground Network

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www.scga.ca

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Backhoe damage to infrastructure results in millions in related costs: Quebec Study

There is an average of five damages per day to underground infrastructures in Québec. In 37% of cases, services needed for locating underground infrastructures were not used.

In a recent report developed for the Quebec Common Ground Alliance it states that it costs Quebec residents up to \$75 million per year in indirect costs. The Executive Summary of this report is included in the Resource Tab on the SCGA website.

<http://www.scga.ca/resources.html>

The Quebec report is also highlighted in a number of newspapers and media announcements including a recent edition of the Montreal Gazette.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/Backhoe%2Bdamage%2Binfrastucture%2Bresults%2Bmillions%2Brelated%2Bcosts%2Bstudy/9225107/story.html>

CCGA Hosts First National Symposium

The CCGA continues to receive positive feedback following its first damage prevention symposium held November 12 through 14 in Kanaskis, Alberta - and by all accounts, the symposium was a complete success! Just shy of 200 people attended the symposium. Senator Grant Mitchell, Deputy Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources delivered a keynote address on the Senate's view of the importance of a safety culture.

<http://www.canadiancga.com/Default.aspx?pageId=776157&mode=PostView&bmi=1449014>

The Contractor Safety Awareness Association (CSAA) and the SCGA agreed to integrate activities to optimize Public Awareness efforts

Over the past 20 years, the CSAA has coordinated an annual breakfast events for contractors throughout Saskatchewan. The simple message for them was to be safe and Call Before You Dig. The success of this effort can be measured by the over 4,500 participants last year. The effort will continue under the CSAA in 2014 but will transition to the SCGA in 2015.

As a result, the SCGA will establish a **new Public Awareness Task Force** to carry on this and other important Public Awareness efforts. **Thanks to the CSAA and their volunteers for their considerable efforts!**

US Common Ground Alliance 2012 DIRT Report

This article from the fall 2013 Damage Prevention Professional confirms the importance of Calling Before You Dig.

The report, which is the sum of all 2012 data submitted by facility operators, utility locate companies, contractors and regulators throughout the US and parts of Canada, confirmed for the third consecutive year the importance of making a free call to local One Call center as the simplest and easiest way to reduce excavation-related damage to underground facilities.

When an excavator notifies a One Call center before digging, damage occurs less than 1% of the time, according to the report. The report also estimates the total number of damages could be reduced by as much as 25% if all digging was preceded by a locate request.

Given this evidence, it is more clear than ever that calling Sask1stCall before digging is a critical step in a safe ground disturbance project. For more information go to the following website.

http://excavationsafetyonline.com/IRFlip/2013_FallDPP_Standard/damagepreventionprofessional/

Welcome to New Members

Over the last few months a number of new members have joined the SCGA. Welcome to the following new members:

- Daxx Safety
- Compass Geomatics
- Plains Midstream Canada
- Regina and Region Home Builders Association
- Find It Locators

If you would like to join the SCGA in 2014, please fill out the membership form at the SCGA website.

<http://www.scga.ca/memberships.html>

**Season's Greetings from the
Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance
and Best Wishes for a Safe 2014!**