

Annual Contractor Breakfast held in Esterhazy

The Contractor Safety Awareness Association (CSAA) in partnership with Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA) held their annual Contractor Safety Breakfasts across Saskatchewan over the last month.

The breakfast was held in Esterhazy at the Royal Canadian Legion on April 3, at 7:30 a.m.

The breakfasts, designed as a short meeting with a hearty breakfast and vital message, aim to increase the awareness of working safely around underground and overhead facilities. The breakfasts are used to promote the message of Call Before You Dig and Look Up and Live.

Invited breakfast guests included construction workers, supervisors, business owners, rural municipalities, emergency responders and anyone who is associated in any aspect of ground disturbance or overhead lines.

Last year, nearly 4,500 workers from over 1,200 Saskatchewan companies attended the CSAA safety breakfasts across the province. The CSAA has been holding these free contractor breakfasts for the past 25 years in Saskatchewan and this year they hosted 29 sessions.

Safe Ground Disturbance Checklist

1. MAKE THE CALL REQUESTING A LOCATE

- Sask 1st Call (information on CSAA contact card).
- Consider other facilities that may be present (RM, Rail, Water).

2. DEVELOP A WORK PLAN.

- Mark proposed work are with a white line (or black on snow)
- Identify any equipment, personnel, permits, or approvals required for the work.

3. PERFORM A HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT.

- Look for signage and other signs of ground disturbance.
- Identify hazards associated with specific underground facilities.
- Determine level of risk associated with the hazard.
- Determine controls and barriers to eliminate or reduce the risk.
- Develop emergency response plan.

4. CONFIRM LOCATES

- Is the record of locate available and does it match the work?
- Do you understand agreements or approvals?
- Check expiry date of locates.

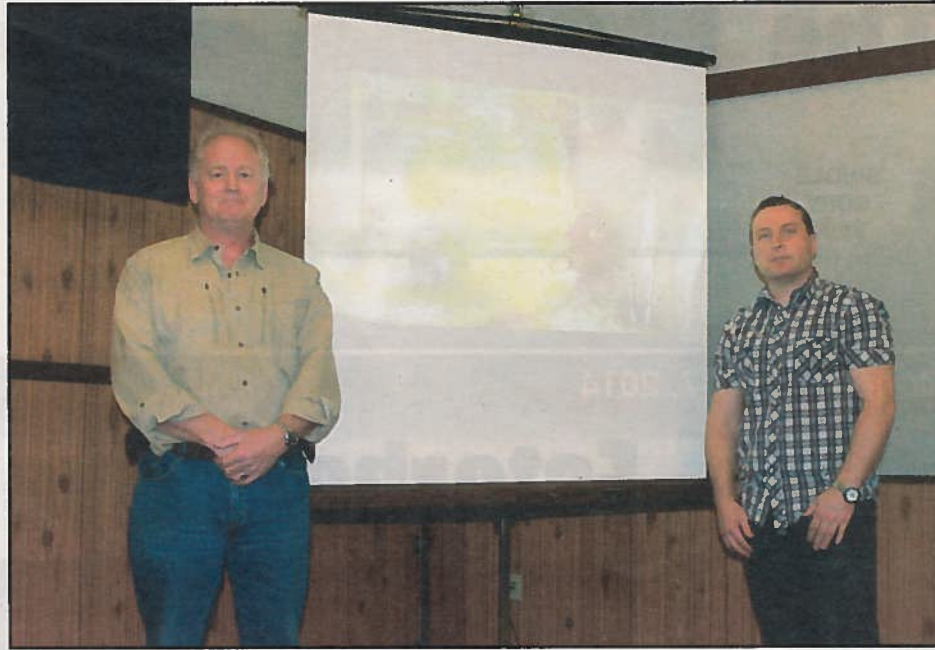
- Are locates marked with paint on the ground or with stakes?

- Do the colors match approved color code?

- Has contact been made with the identified facility owner(s)?

5. PERFORM A PRE-JOB SAFETY MEETING (TAILGATE).

- has there been any



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change to the work plan? If so call again.

- Ensure 'exposing' is performed as required by facility owners.

- Have arrangements been made for any required site supervision?

- Use safe mechanical excavation procedure as per OH&S section 259.

7. COMPLETION – SITE LEFT AS REQUIRED.

- Is the documentation completed?
- Are stakes removed and disposed?

* Remember to inform new workers general / job specific safety rules, ensure they are trained to do the work, well as informed of hazards, control measures and emergency response. For more information refer to www.scga.ca

April declared Safe Digging Month

As contractors and homeowners begin preparing for another active construction season, the Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with Sask 1st Call and the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA), has declared April to be Safe Digging Month to remind the public of the importance of digging safely around underground infrastructure.

"Saskatchewan's economic growth continues to be led by a high volume of construction activity and we want to see this work done safely throughout the year," Energy and Resources Minister Tim McMillan said. "The first step in any outdoor project, such as building a

fence, deck, garage or landscaping, involves the Sask 1st Call line locating service. Educating people about the safe digging process helps prevent injuries, property damage and service outages to communities."

Unsafe excavation practices are the leading cause of damage to buried infrastructure, and Sask 1st Call's goal is to end accidental line damage. Once a customer requests a line locate, Sask 1st Call notifies underground infrastructure owners of potential ground disturbance work occurring near their facilities. These companies require a minimum notice of two full working days' to locate and mark their un-

derground lines, at no charge, allowing the digging project to safely proceed.

"Sask 1st Call has successfully worked with contractors and homeowners for over a decade to ensure ground disturbance work is done safely," Sask 1st Call Manager Barb Tchozewski said. "Whether you're doing a major excavation project or some finishing touches in your yard, be sure to call Sask 1st Call to have those underground lines marked in advance."

Failing to have underground infrastructure lines properly marked can result in significant consequences, including lengthy project delays, costly damage to lines and

equipment, disruption of essential services, property damage, environmental concerns, along with serious personal injury and even death.

Damage prevention is a shared responsibility and is in everyone's best interest, reminds Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance Executive Director Daryl Posehn. However, he cautions that safe digging responsibilities don't end once a line is located.

"Accidental line damage is a dangerous trend that puts people and their surrounding communities at great risk," Posehn said. "This is a direct result of people digging first and planning later so it's re-

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Safe digging month

Cont'd from page 2 ally critical that individuals have a safe dig plan in place before beginning to work. With proper planning put solidly in the forefront – and having a line locate completed is the first step – the excavation process can be done safely and quickly."

The Contractor Safety Awareness Association is held a series of Contractor Safety Breakfasts starting the first week of April in 29 locations across the province to help promote Safe Digging Month. Watch for information about the breakfast being held in your area.

The SCGA is a member-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring worker and public safety, environmental protection and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices in connection with underground infrastructure activities. For more information, please go to www.scga.ca.

Sask 1st Call is a non-

profit "Call Before You Dig" underground facility location service for contractors and homeowners who are planning to dig or excavate. Subscriber companies require two full working days' notice to locate the underground fa-

cilities at the project site, allowing work to continue without impacting buried infrastructure, or disrupting service to customers. Sask 1st Call has 56 members (including SaskEnergy/TransGas, SaskPower and SaskTel)

and represents more than 400,000 kilometres of buried infrastructure across Saskatchewan. For more information, please go to www.sask1stcall.com.