



About 190 people attended the CSAA Breakfast presentation on Tuesday April 1. The presentation promoted the message of Call Before You Dig.

Bacon, eggs and safety facts: CSAA promotes safety at Moosomin breakfast

BY KHANG NGUYEN

For 25 years, the Contractor Safety Awareness Association has put on an annual breakfast and presentation for contractors around the Moosomin area.

The breakfast happened on April 1 this year at the Moosomin Convention Centre.

The breakfast is used to promote the message of Call Before you Dig and Look up and Live.

"When spring rolls around, everyone is ready to go, and it's a busy time. We want to remind everyone to call before they dig," CSAA Public Awareness Co-ordinator Beverly Graham said.

CSAA encourages contractors to call Sask 1st Call before they begin any work that involves ground disturbance.

"When they make a call to Sask 1st Call, they will notify anyone with a pipeline in the area, and pipeline companies will come out and locate their lines," Graham said. "This is all for safety awareness. We get complacent in our busy world and we forget about underground and overhead facilities," Graham says.

Once a contractor calls Sask 1st Call, a ticket number is issued to the 19 subscribed pipeline companies with the request details. If there is an underground line in the dig area, the owner of that pipe will come to mark it with paint, stakes or flags. Once all subscribed companies are notified and if there has been no notified pipe in the area, the contractor will be free to dig. However, CSAA advises contractors to do their own research as well as not all pipeline companies are subscribed to the Sask 1st Call program.

"We feel that the first step in any project that has to do with ground disturbance, whether it's in the city, in the towns, in the rural area, it doesn't matter, call Sask 1st Call," Graham says.

"There are pipelines everywhere, and that's why calling Sask 1st Call is the first step in any ground disturbance. It's



The CSAA Breakfast consisted of eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and English muffins.



Dean Ranford from Trans Gas handing out complimentary work gloves to all attendees at the CSAA Breakfast.

to find out what utilities are there. Not all utilities are registered with Sask 1st Call, but it's up to the person out there digging to make sure that all un-

derground facilities have been located, and you can find that information through land titles, towns, cities, RMs."

After 25 years of the Call

Before You Dig campaign, Graham says that pipes are still being hit often.

"Every day, pipelines are hit in Canada. Sometimes people are killed. If

you are involved in an incident like that, of course there is the possibility of injury or death, and then there is also the cost of repairs—cost will kill you

too."

"If you hit a pipeline and you're still alive, you're lucky. But then you'll have the cost associated with repairing that line afterwards. There's a lot to think about when you're out there digging."

Graham says that it is hard to determine if the number of pipe hits have decreased over the years.

"We think more about what will happen if we weren't doing anything at all. This is at least a reminder to call before they dig."

"It's a step that is forgotten. Sometimes we are complacent and just forget about it, but we want to make sure that everyone thinks about it. Whether you're putting up a swing set in the backyard or trenching for a something major, calling is so important."

190 people attended the breakfast on Tuesday morning. On that same morning, seven other presentations took place around Saskatchewan.

"Every year has grown. In the first year, we were lucky to get a couple of hundred people in the province, but now we're up to about 5000."

"We go to 29 towns and cities around the province. Overall we will see over 5,000 contractors in Saskatchewan."

"Whether they are in the office doing the paperwork, or they're the ones behind the steering wheel, they are who we want to come because we want to remind them to call before they dig."

Attendees are given an up-to-date pamphlet with a list of the 19 subscribed pipeline companies' phone numbers.

Murray Swanston is an independent contractor from Welwyn and attended this year's breakfast as well as breakfasts in years past.

"It's pretty important . . . it's true that it will save a life, but if you don't do it, it's just an inconvenience."

Swanston says that if he were to hit a pipe during a contracting job, he would be liable for the damages, and says that is why he always calls before he digs.