



BACKGROUND on Common Ground Alliance

- ***Common Ground Alliance originated as an extension of the Common Ground Study.***
The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) was created in 2000 after the U.S. Department of Transportation released a study addressing the best practices relating to damage prevention. The study, released in 1999, was never intended to be a fixed model, but to evolve as experts learn more and technology advances. The CGA was formed by a federal mandate to continue the development of best practices for damage prevention. CGA is a member-driven organization with more than 1,400 individual members, member organizations and sponsors in 15 stakeholder groups that comprise the underground utility and damage prevention industry. These groups include excavators, locators, road builders, electric, telecommunications, oil, gas, railroad, one call centers, public works, equipment manufacturing & suppliers, state regulators, insurance and engineering/design, emergency services.
- ***Common Ground Alliance promotes effective damage prevention practices.***
From its inception, CGA has promoted effective damage prevention practices in order to ensure public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services. To achieve these goals, CGA fosters a sense of shared responsibility for the protection of underground facilities; supports research; develops and conducts public awareness and education programs; identifies and disseminates stakeholder best practices such as those embodied in the Common Ground Study; and serves as a clearinghouse for damage data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The CGA also works with industry stakeholders and regulators to produce stronger, more effective results through partnership, collaboration, and the pursuit of common goals in damage prevention.
- ***Common Ground Alliance will administer the 811 campaign.***
811 is the new FCC-designated national N-11 number. The announcement of the federal mandate took place on March 10, 2005, and 811 gives CGA a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to focus national attention on the importance of calling before digging. By calling 811, it is possible to have the approximate location of underground utility lines marked for free, preventing damage to the underground infrastructure and keeping the nation protected and connected. CGA will work with its membership, sponsors, and national launch partners in the 811 campaign to increase awareness about the new number and create positive behavior change.