

## DECEMBER LIVE! OPEN MIC WITH MISS DIG 811 SUMMARY

December's topic of discussion was **Project Tickets, Hand Exposing & Web Ticket Programs**. Some of the questions and comments regarding these subjects included:

**Q. Is the excavator required to call to get marks refreshed every 21 days on a project ticket?**

A. There is no set time in PA 174, but the excavator is responsible for calling to get marks refreshed when needed.

**Q. When you call in about 'Destroyed Markings' on a project ticket, it's not always the entire project that needs to be marked.**

A. Yes, that is true. It is important for the excavator and locator to remain in communication so that only the area that needs re-marking is marked (within the specified 24-hour period). When 'Destroyed Markings' is called in, be sure to describe, on the ticket, the specific area within the project's worksite that needs locating. Otherwise it puts an unnecessary burden on the locator. Note: If the specific area is outside the originally described worksite, a new ticket will be required.

**Q. Project tickets are abused a lot by excavators; they don't always understand what the project ticket is supposed to be used for.**

A. The Education Specialists are aware of this, and are trying to educate as many of the contractors as possible. We also train our NSR's to make sure the project ticket is requested for the correct reason, not just because the excavator doesn't know when he wants to start digging, or whether he wants to have an open ticket so he can go back and forth to a worksite for 6 months. A project ticket is valid only if there is continuous digging during the 21-day period (e.g. water main installation, road reconstruction).

**Q. Did you say that the locator doesn't have to mark for design tickets? I am a locator, and we mark design tickets for certain utilities.**

A. It does state in the law (PA 174) that facility owner/operators are only required to mark their facilities on a design ticket if they don't have drawings or records to provide to the excavator. A locator may be required

to mark lines on design tickets because the member does not have documentation deemed sufficient for the requester.

**Q. Is the member required to be on site for all for Design Tickets?**

**A.** All that is required is that the member provide prints or drawings to the Excavator. The member is not required to be on site.

**Q. I spoke with a gentleman who was considering the purchase of some property, but was required by the city to have utilities located before being approved. Could he have placed a design ticket?**

**A.** Currently, you have to be a member of MISS DIG 811 to place a design ticket. This means design ticket users are engineering firms and facility members installing lines. There are plans in place that will allow anyone to enter an E-Design ticket online. This will help with city requirements.

**Q. Can I place an Emergency ticket using the RTE program?**

**A.** If you let your RTE trainer know that you place emergency tickets, he/she will add Emergency ticket entry to your knowledge base. If you are already using the RTE system you can sign up for an Emergency class which lasts approximately 10 minutes.

**Q. Is vacuum excavation considered soft excavation?**

**A.** Yes, soft excavation includes hand-digging, cautious digging with non-mechanical tools, vacuum excavation, and the use of pneumatic hand tools.

**Q. What does MISS DIG 811 CERTIFIED mean?**

**A.** It is a listening course that includes five modules. If you pass the quizzes at the end of each of the five modules, you will receive a notice saying you are MISS DIG 811 certified. In the industry, this means you are concerned with safety, that you know about MISS DIG 811 and how the system works. Contractors can use it as a selling point to their customers. It is similar to the Gold Shovel Standard.

*After the presentation, all attendees were informed about our MISS DIG 811 CERTIFICATION ON THE ROAD and the inclusion of continuing education credits for some trades.*