



Damage Prevention Primer

Presentation for
Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
May 30, 2007

What is damage prevention

Promotion

Measures that reduce the likelihood of damage to underground utilities from excavation

Awareness

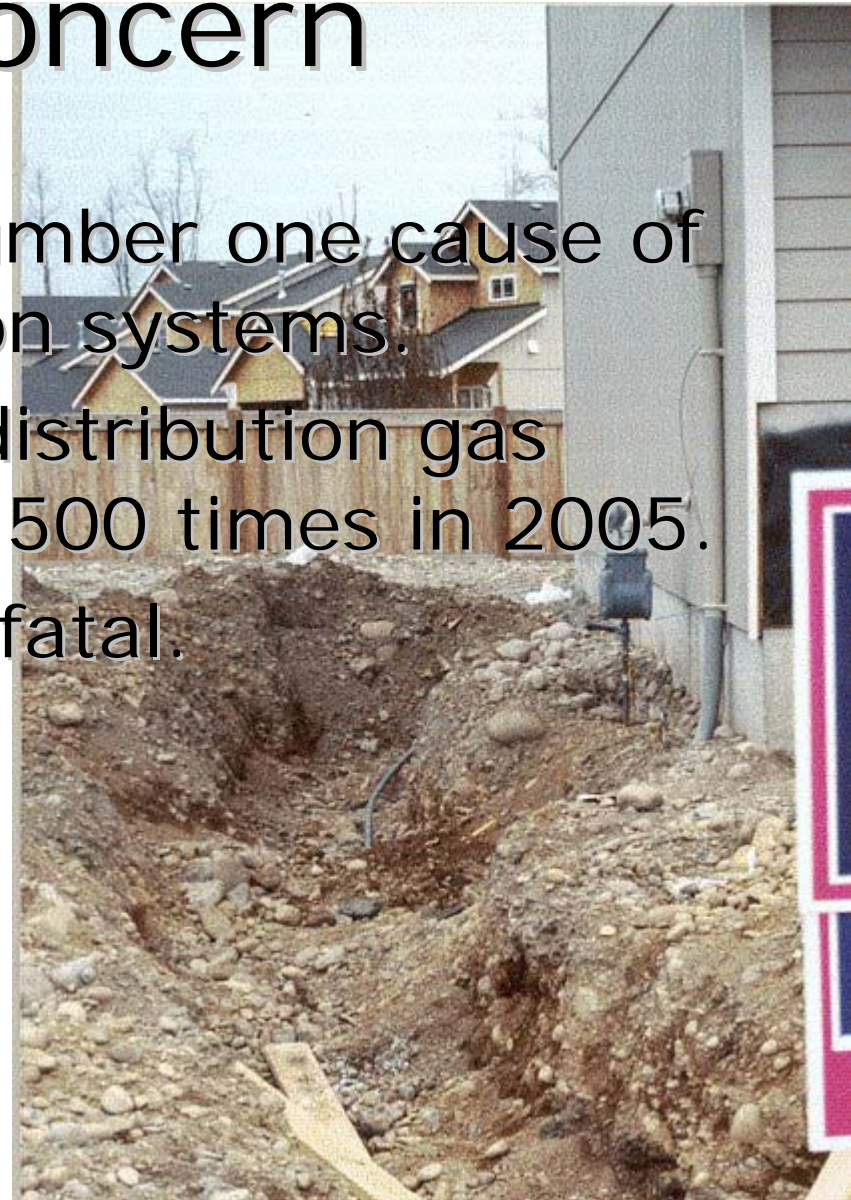
Training

Enforcement

Marking/Signs

Why a concern

- External damage is number one cause of leaks in gas distribution systems.
- Excavation damaged distribution gas pipelines more than 2,500 times in 2005.
- Consequences can be fatal.



How it happens

- Excavator didn't know where the pipeline was located.
 - Didn't call for a locate
 - Didn't wait for the locate
 - No locate markings were made
 - Locate markings were not maintained
 - Locate markings were not accurate
- Excavator did not use sufficient care while digging around the pipeline.



How often

- Roughly 40 percent of the gas incidents in 2005 did not have locate requests.
- Roughly 35 percent were caused by failure to use reasonable care.
- Above two statistics are close to findings in 2005 Damage Information Report Tool report.

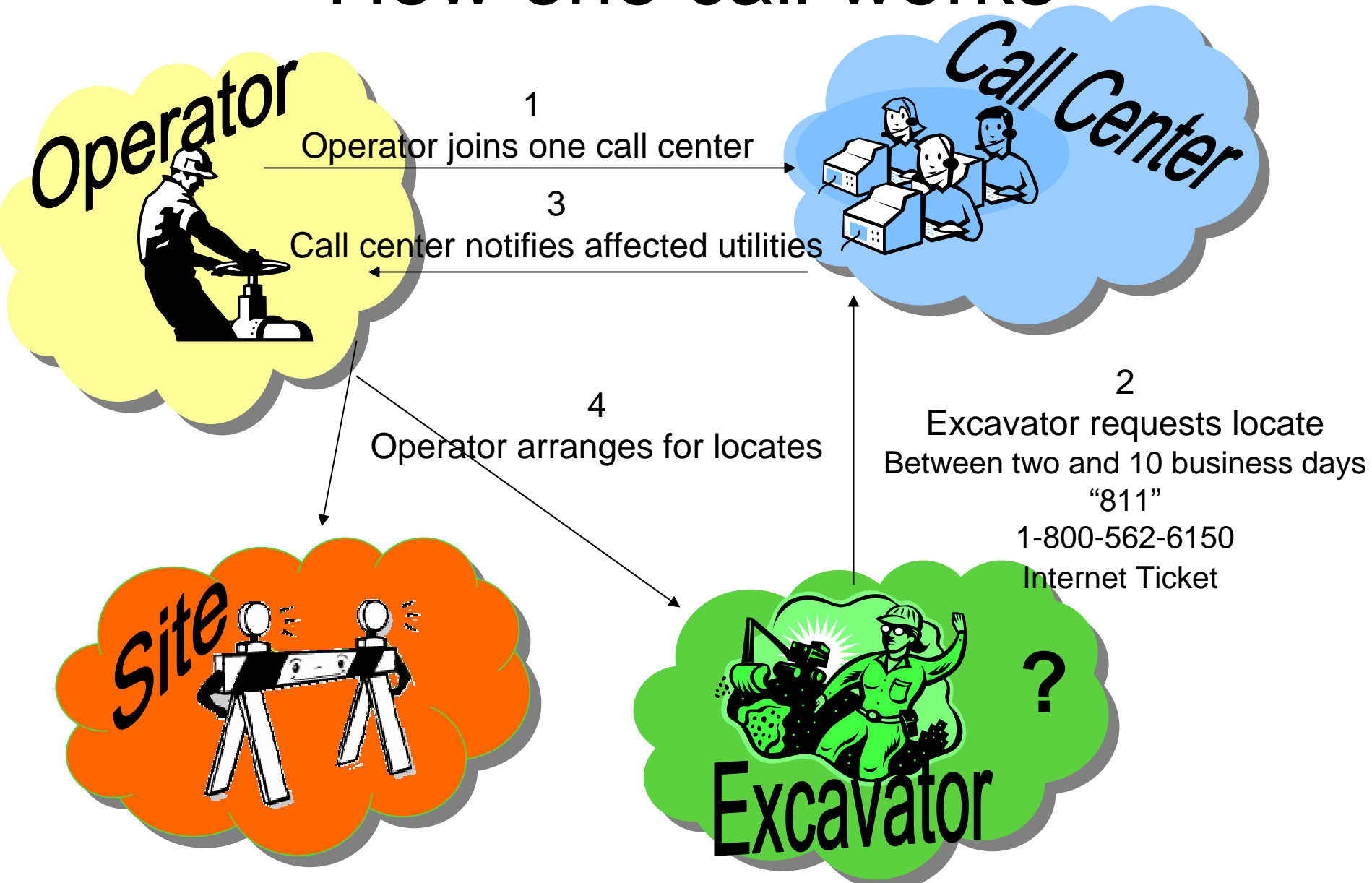
Operator requirements

(CFR 192.614 &.616/CFR 195.440 & .442)

- Written program to prevent damage to pipeline from excavation activities.
- Participate in a qualified one-call system.
- Inform affected public about the existence of pipeline and one-call requirements.
- Provide temporary markings when needed.
- Inspect pipelines that might be damaged.



How one call works



Objective

Reduce the breakdowns in the damage prevention process which should ultimately decrease the number of incidents.

Notice

Locates

Digging

The Players

- Utility Notification Center – One Call Concepts
- Utility Underground Location Center – Utilities (over 1,000) which oversee the operation and funding of the Utility Notification Center.
- Utilities Coordinating Council – Utilities, contractors, governments and other.
- Common Ground Alliance - Organization of stakeholders focused on damage prevention, active in data collection.
- Underground facility owners
- Excavators and the public

Government Players

- **PHMSA** – Enforce federal pipeline safety rules and award damage prevention grants.
- **UTC** – Enforce federal and state pipeline safety rules.
- **Attorney General** – Can seek civil penalties against violators of the state's dig law, Chapter 19.122 RCW.
- **Local Prosecutors** – Can seek civil penalties against violators of the state's dig law, Chapter 19.122 RCW.

RCW 19.122

- Establishes single statewide calling
- Requires excavators to call locator service prior to digging.
- Requires “reasonably accurate” locates within two business days.
- Requires excavators to maintain and respect locate markings.
- Requires excavator to stop digging when unidentified facilities are uncovered.
- Holds excavator responsible for damage if law is not followed, treble damages if timely call is not made.

RCW 19.122 - What it doesn't do

- No penalty for covering up a damaged facility.
- No harm no foul; penalty only if damaged
- No entity directly assigned to enforce or write rules.
- No reporting requirements.
- No plain talk. See RCW 19.122.030 which switches back and forth between excavator and utility owner obligations. Several gray areas.

PIPES

Nine damage prevention program elements

- 1) Communication from start to finish.
- 2) Stakeholder investment and awareness
- 3) Locating service performance/quality assurance
- 4) Collaborative employee training programs
- 5) Collaborative public education
- 6) State facilitates dispute resolution
- 7) Enforcement of state dig law.
- 8) Keep current with technology
- 9) Process for continuous improvement



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

What UTC has done

- Fostered Northwest Common Ground Alliance – No longer meeting regularly.
- Encouraged utilities (mainly water companies) to join the UULC.
- Filed suit against three excavation companies.
- Proposed incorporating RCW 19.122 in our pipeline safety rules.
- Monitoring 811 implementation.

Where do we go from here

