

# **Excavation Damage Prevention Strategies**

**October 6, 2022** 

Patrick O'Sullivan Eversource Gas

Safety First and Always

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#### Agenda

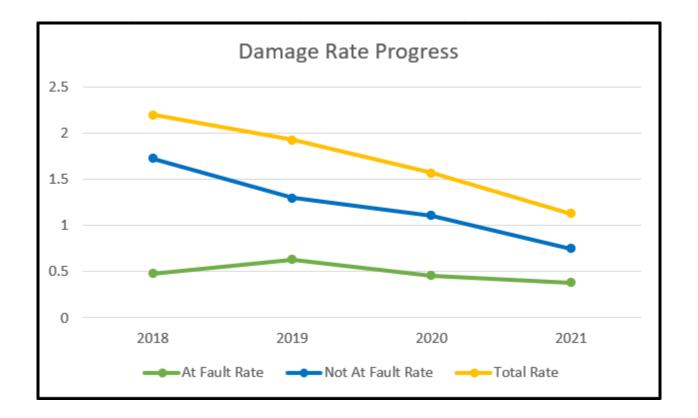
- Program Effectiveness
- Key Aspects to Damage Prevention Program Success
  - Positive Outreach
  - Policies and Procedures
  - Operator Qualification & Education
  - QA/QC Audit Program (ES Department)
  - Risk Mitigation
  - Problem Locate Process
  - Closing Thoughts / Questions



# Damage Prevention Program Performance Data

3

### **Program Effectiveness**



Eversource Damage Prevention is committed to continuous improvement efforts. The team regularly reviews and re-evaluates the effectiveness of the program, making adjustments as needed. The progress we have made is evident in the chart above.



# Key Aspects to Damage Prevention Program Success

### **Positive Outreach**

- Committee involvement:
  - MUST participation and events
  - Dig Safe board member
  - Dig Safe events
  - CBYD board member
  - CBYD events
  - NGA conferences
- Positive Outreach
  - The Damage Prevention team regularly review the effectiveness of how we are meeting with excavators and educating them about gas safety, Dig Safe, and CBYD
  - Formal presentations and informal field meetings/tailgates are conducted to engage and BUILD RELATIONSHIPS with the excavating community
  - Informal field visits allow us to reach more excavators as ticket volume continues to rise
  - Excavators have been quicker to reach out to a Damage Prevention representative and the positive results have been evident

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#### **Positive Outreach**



Safe Excavation Presentations

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- Formal presentations set up to promote safe excavating practices in front of larger audience
  - Mostly scheduled proactively during company safety days or orientation sessions
  - Scheduled reactively after a damage or multiple damages



### **Positive Outreach**

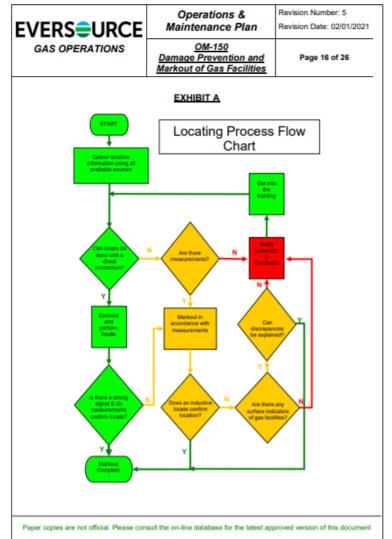
- Field Visits
  - Informal, quicker, intended for smaller audience
  - Can happen at any time
  - Able to see the work habits of contractor
  - Ability to answer specific questions on facilities at work site





# **Policies & Procedures**

- OM-150
  - Locate response
  - Locate method
  - Locating Process Flow Chart
  - Markout requirements
  - Guidance for markout and excavation near critical facilities
- OM-150-ADM
  - Participation in One Call Centers
  - Qualification of employees
  - Guidance for damage investigations
  - At fault damage response and follow-up actions



#### **Policies & Procedures**

TOWN

#### MARKOUT FORM MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

MARKED OUT BY\_\_\_\_\_

CBYD\_\_\_\_\_

STREET\_\_\_\_\_

		MEASUREMENTS			ENTS	MEASUREMENTS		HOW WAS		PRE -										
HOUSE	LOCATED BY		USED / FRO						AREA MARKED		MARKED								DATE	
#	DIRECT	INDIRECT	NO	YES	GIS	CARD	YES	NO	PAINT	STAKES	YES	NO	ST	PS	CI	ST	PS	CI	MARKED	COMMENTS
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### **Operator Qualification & Education**

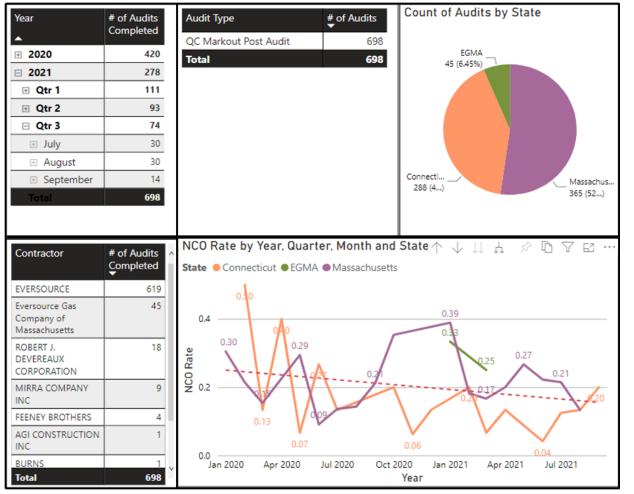
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- Decision made to develop an Eversource OQ Plan in 2017, implemented in mid-2018
  - Better control over testing and qualifications
  - Allows for training and testing to be completed to Eversourcespecific standards and policies
- Second Party Contractor on-boarding and refresher meetings
  - Includes locating, use of records, safe excavation practices
  - As often as needed
  - Discuss trends, best practices, metrics and expectations
- Bi-weekly internal and Second Party PSMS & QC calls
  - Review of current trends, damages and lessons learned with all stakeholders

# **QA/QC Independent Audit Program**

- Individual and crew performance review
- "Live" Random inspection from QA/QC group
- "Post"
   Construction Re-Digs and Post Audits



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# **Risk Mitigation**

- Pre-screening/data capture in ticket management systems
  - Cast iron, high pressure, critical facilities, blasting, etc.
- Automated workflows
  - Communication with internal and external stakeholders
- Addressing identified gaps by implementing a new unified ticket management system
  - Enhanced risk management capabilities
    - Interface with GIS
  - Enforcement of locator accountability
- Tooling for problem locates
  - Ground Penetrating Radar, Jameson Tracer Kit, Pipeline Camera



#### **Problem Locate Process**

- Driven by field employees who notice discrepancies
- Tools
  - GPR
  - Jameson Tracer Kit
  - Pipeline camera
- Increased awareness and engagement from all stakeholders
- Measure program effectiveness by capturing actual at fault damages vs. successful problem locates
  - Successful problem locate is situation where efforts produced a different result than original markings and facilities fall within scope of work. Assumption is that without problem locate efforts facility would have been damaged.
  - 2022 YTD at fault damage rate would be 43% greater absent the problem locate process

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#### Communication

- Answer the call
- Don't be afraid to reach out to contractors
- Stay in touch, jobs not done after the paint's down



# **Questions?**

16