

2024 Issue 1

Louisiana



Pipeline Safety

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2024 Louisiana Damage Prevention Summit

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DON'T ignore me.

What? You don't think that you should pay attention to a little yellow flag? Well, I'm the best thing to keep your crew safe. Call 811 before digging, and Atmos Energy will plant me and my pals wherever natural gas lines are buried. Trust me, you'd rather have us get your attention than a natural gas line.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



from the desk of

Brent Saltzman



We've started 2024 off with a bang by just completing our 2024 Damage Prevention Summit. It was great visiting with stakeholders from virtually every facet of our industry (excavators, owner/operators, locators, and equipment/software providers) at this conference. Additionally, we had some outstanding presentations informing us of everything from the broadband deployment schedule to addressing abandoned facilities and from competent person requirements to using the Louisiana 811 mobile app.

We also had the opportunity to acknowledge and show our appreciation to a couple of well-deserving individuals: Ed Landgraf and Joey Laborde. Ed was recognized as this year's winner of the prestigious Vic Weston Damage Prevention Champion Award given annually to the person who has been and continues to be, a leader devoted to making Louisiana a safer place to live and work through his efforts with Coastal & Marine Operators (CAMO). Ed has tirelessly worked to educate marine excavators not only in Louisiana but around

the country about contacting 811 prior to marine-type excavation activity. Additionally, he has aided in changing the Louisiana Dig Law language enhancing it to meet the specific needs of this stakeholder group. Joey was recognized as the 2023 Locator of the Year. Excavators that nominated Joey stated that he is someone they could depend on for being on time and accurate. Another stated that Joey is always on top of his game and always available when called upon. And yet another stated that they have never had someone as efficient and dedicated as Joey. It was my honor to recognize these two gentlemen who really make a difference in Louisiana.

At the conclusion of the Summit, we had an intense Locate Rodeo whereby those who perform this vital function – locating underground facilities – could compete against each other. They were judged on their time and accuracy. This year's competition was the largest we have ever had with twenty-four entrants vying for a whopping \$1,250 grand prize! Topping the list for this year's event was James Henning from Entergy, so congratulations for this huge honor of being the best of the best!

Events such as this are not only educational but there's ample opportunity during the conference to network with peers in our industry and have fun at the same time. If you missed out this year, hopefully, we will see you at next year's Summit where you can experience firsthand what all the fuss is about.

Finally, it is not too late to register for the upcoming Global Excavation Safety Conference that will be held in New Orleans for the first time in its 20-year history March 19-21! Louisiana 811 is the host state for this educational global conference, and I urge you to attend. To find out more about this exciting event, check out our website at www.la811.com. You don't want to miss it!

Until next time, stay safe and God bless.

Brent Saltzman
Executive Director
Louisiana 811

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Louisiana 811

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Sentinel Midstream Operating LLC
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Turkey Creek Water System Inc. / Franklin
West Winnsboro Water System Inc.
Westlake Corporation
Venture Global Gator Express Pipeline, LLC

New Sustaining Members of LA811:

Alliance Safety Council
Material Resources, Inc.
Preferred Electric, Inc.

Operations Numbers

Incoming Locate Requests:

2022 – 863,003

2023 – 686,386

Outgoing Notifications:

2022 – 4,188,360

2023 – 3,838,156 (8.36% decrease)

Call Ratio (Incoming notifications to Outgoing Members)

2022 – 1:4.85

2023 – 1:4.85

On-Line Ticket Entry

2022 – 88.63%

2023 – 89.89%

2024 Vic Weston Award Winner & Locator of the Year



Brent Saltzman (l) presents the 2024 Vic Weston Damage Prevention Champion Award to Ed Langraf, CAMO



Brent Saltzman (r) presents the Locator of the Year Award to Joey LaBorde, Entergy, Gas.



Past Vic Weston Award Winners, (l – r), David Frey, Thelma Coleman, Ed Langraf (this year's winner) and Robert Borne.

The way I See it

Louisiana 811

By Cole Vanderlick
Manager - Damage Prevention
Louisiana 811



Our team has been “full steam ahead” to start this new year! We have been utilizing our relationships to get integrated with our industry in every way we can. First, by our commitment to serving all stakeholders. If you use 811 in any facet of your job, don’t hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or setbacks with your tickets. We are here to help troubleshoot issues or help you communicate through any problems. We are your valued teammate in accomplishing your projects safely! We do this daily, so let us know when you are in need of help. Our contact information can be found on our website resource center under administration.

You will be seeing our damage prevention team throughout the state at conferences and events all year long. We appreciate our partnerships with outstanding organizations throughout our industry and are proud to work together. We encourage you

to get involved with your industry’s association. We often participate in their events as well as recertification and continuing education courses. If you aren’t sure of a specific association or do not have a contact, we are more than happy to connect you.

Our Liaisons attend and support local Utility Coordinating Councils (UCCs) that occur statewide, many of which meet monthly. These meetings are some of the best forums available to build relationships with your peers and discuss each other’s projects. The more we all can communicate together on our work, we set ourselves up for success and safety. The more we prepare, the better we will be. Check out our website events calendar for statewide UCC meeting details.

We hope you will invite us over for a safety meeting sooner rather than later.

Please keep this message in mind as we embark on a fruitful year: “Safety is in your hands. Every dig. Every time.” 811



Upcoming Events

Police Jury Assoc of Louisiana Annual Convention, February 28 – March 1; Golden Nugget, Lake Charles, <https://www.lpgov.org/>

LGA GasTec Expo Day, March 12-13; Zachary, www.louisianagasassociation.org

Excavation Safety Alliance Global Excavation Safety Conf., March 19-21; New Orleans, www.excavationsafetyalliance.com/globalesc

National Linemen’s Rodeo, April 5-6; Lafayette

Common Ground Alliance Conference & Expo, April 14-18, Colorado, <https://www.cgaconference.com/>

Louisiana 811 Scholarship

Our Mission: The Mission of Louisiana 811 is to support the protection of our members' facilities, the public, and the environment by providing excellent damage prevention services in a cost-effective manner.

Our Vision: The Vision of Louisiana 811 is to be a prominent leader in damage prevention through innovation, education and technology while providing excellent customer service.

LA811 Scholarship Eligibility

- Applicants must be Louisiana residents and attend an accredited Louisiana high school, public or private.
- Applicants must be seniors at their respective high schools.
- Applicants must be planning to attend either a community college, an accredited trade school, or a four-year, accredited, college or university by the following fall after graduation.

GUIDELINES

The application requires the student to complete the online application form that can be found at: scholarship.louisiana811.com. The student is to be the sole contributor to and creator of the submission document. Please note that all submissions will be the property of Louisiana 811 and used at our discretion.

The first portion of the online application requires the student to provide their contact information as well as the high school they are currently attending and the school they are planning on attending next fall.


The second portion of the application provides the opportunity to learn more about the student and their involvement in their high school and community. The student should concentrate on hobbies, favorite academic subject, and any information supporting that the student works with others as a team, demonstrates leadership skills, and/or has contributed to improving his/her community.

The third portion of the application is for the Essay (300 words or less). Describe how you would deliver and how you would stress the importance of the 811 Message, "Call Before You Dig", to your peer group and/or family members.

The fourth and final portion of the application is for the Transcript. In addition to the application submission, students must provide a copy of their high school transcript(s) that can be uploaded to the site.

All applications must be received by **Friday, March 29, 2024**. Applications received after the due date or not submitted in their entirety will not be considered. Winners will be announced by a combination of phone, email, and written letter.

Submit your application at scholarship.louisiana811.com.

Scholarship dollars will be submitted directly to the educational institution indicated on your application after we receive proof of your registration. It will be the scholarship applicant's responsibility to ensure the educational institution contacts us with this information. Proof of registration should be submitted to Cole Vanderlick at cole@laonecall.com. Please email Cole regarding any questions. 

Start the New Year with CenterPoint Energy

CenterPoint Energy training is focused on making sure your leadership and field personnel understand the 811 state laws, safe digging best practices, and other tips to help your projects be completed damage free without the delays and expenses of cutting a natural gas line. Most importantly, it is critical we cover how to stay safe in the event of a cut natural gas line.

Our training also covers the steps to prevent natural gas ignition, explosion, and inherent risks should blowing gas from a damaged pipeline occur in your community.



To schedule your training session, email PublicAwareness@CenterPointEnergy.com





- 🔥 Call 811 at least two full business days before excavating.
- 🔥 Wait until all buried utilities are marked with paint and/or flags.
- 🔥 Dig and Excavate Safely, within the parameters of the One Call ticket.

Louisiana 811, Call Before You Dig

Kinetica Emergency Phone Numbers: (337) 312-2101 or Toll Free (855) 395-3958

Pipeline safety is a shared responsibility

- 🔥 There are over 2.5 million miles of pipelines in the US according to the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- 🔥 GulfSafe reports 35,000 miles of pipeline just in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 🔥 Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged by someone who did not call 811 before digging, according to CGA's DIRT report.
- 🔥 Louisiana State Law requires contacting the 811 at least 2 full business days prior to a planned excavation.
- 🔥 According to Louisiana State Law, an "excavation" means any operation causing movement or removal of earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground or submerged in a marine environment that could reasonably result in damage to underground or submerged utilities or facilities by the use of powered or mechanical or manual means, including but not limited to pile driving, digging, blasting, augering, boring, back filling, dredging, compaction, plowing-in, trenching, ditching, tunneling, land-leveling, grading, and mechanical probing.

For more information, or to schedule a free presentation please contact Kinetica's

Damage Prevention

Department.

(985) 223-6145

Membership Contact Information Process Simplified



Underground facility operators in Louisiana are required to belong to Louisiana 811, where we maintain the maps and records that allow us to notify them of nearby excavations so that the area can be marked for safety.

According to our bylaws, as a condition of membership, all members must review, provide, and update, **ANNUALLY**, all the contact information for the following:

1. **The senior management contact for your company;**
2. **The contact person for notifications;**
3. **The contact person for billing;**
4. **The contact information for the person designated to provide your mapping information and keep it updated.**
5. **The member will provide a 24/7 telephone number for emergency notifications as required by Louisiana Law.**

Our e-Notify system makes it easier and more convenient for our members to keep their contact information accurate and up-to-date. It is a free service that provides the Senior Management Contact Person secure, on-line access to their member information for fast, easy updates. Members who haven't tried it are encouraged to register and give it a test-drive.

If you would like more information on eNotify, please contact Toni Mancuso at 225-275-3700, extension 429 or by e-mail at enotify@laonecall.com.

If you need assistance with mapping updates, please contact Shana Fleming at 225-275-3700, extension 443 or by e-mail at sfleming@occinc.com. 



Call 811 before you dig



Your safety is our number one priority.

From installing a new pool to simply planting a tree, digging without knowing what's beneath the surface can be extremely dangerous. You could also disrupt utility services to your neighborhood, leading to expensive repairs and fines.

When you call 811, all utilities, including Entergy, will respond within two business days to locate and mark the underground utility lines. (The two business days start the morning after you call).

And if you suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately and call **1-800-ENERGY** (368-3749) or **911**. Indications of a gas leak include the distinctive smell of natural gas, a whistling or hissing sound near a gas appliance, or dead vegetation and bubbles near a gas line.

We power life.SM

A message from Entergy New Orleans, LLC and Entergy Louisiana, LLC
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PIPELINE SAFETY

Millions of people all across the country share the same neighbor. This neighbor does not intrude where it's not wanted and simply goes about its business helping all of us every day. Pipelines are the energy lifelines of many of our daily activities, from driving our children to school and heating our homes, to buying groceries at the store delivered by trucks that run on diesel.

The U.S. has the largest network of energy pipelines of any nation in the world. There are more than 200,000 miles of oil pipelines and 300,000 miles of natural gas pipelines all across the country. These lines are tucked under our streets, through neighborhoods and communities, and traveling below farmland, forests and deserts. Since Americans consume more than 700 million gallons of petroleum products per day, pipelines are an essential component of our nation's infrastructure. Without them our roads and highways would be overrun with trucks trying to meet this demand. According to National Transportation Safety Board statistics, pipelines are the safest, most reliable manner for transporting crude oil and other liquid petroleum products. Pipeline owners and operators are ever mindful of the safety of those around them and they strictly follow proven safety procedures.

Many pipeline companies regularly inspect their rights-of-way using air, foot or vehicle patrols. These trained inspectors look for potential danger to pipelines such as construction activity or signs of gas or liquid leaks. These inspections along their pipeline routes are to ensure the security and integrity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

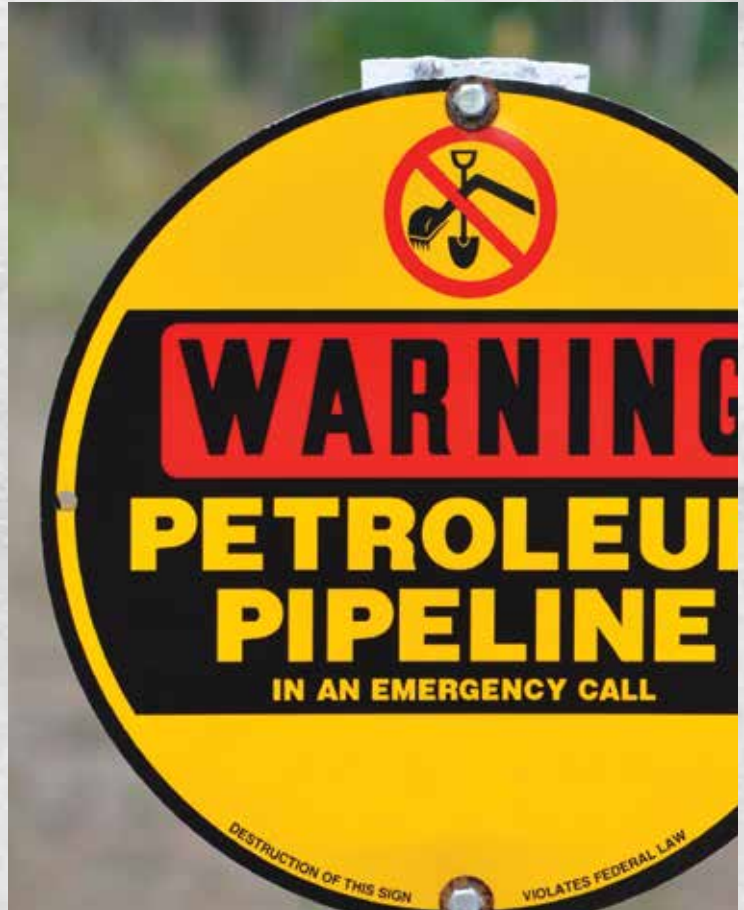


Be aware of pipeline markers in your neighborhood and at your worksite

Pipeline companies keep in touch on a regular basis with emergency officials and work with local emergency responders along pipeline rights-of-way in case of an emergency, sometimes even training with fire departments or hazardous materials units. Even though a leak or spill is extremely unlikely, pipeline companies provide information like that which you will find on the following pages that will prepare you in the event that it does occur. Their hope is to continue to be a quiet neighbor and provide you with this important information to help if you suspect a problem in your area. Pipeline companies take the safe operation of their infrastructure seriously, which includes protecting your family, your property and the environment. Because of this diligence, incidents are very rare.

For your safety, pipelines are marked by above ground signs to provide an indication of their presence, approximate location, material carried and the name and contact information of the company that operates the pipeline. Markers may be anywhere along the right-of-way (a strip of land usually about 25 to 150 feet wide that contains a pipeline) or directly over the pipeline itself. These markers are generally yellow, black and red in color. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers. While markers are helpful in locating pipelines, they do not provide information such as how many pipelines are below or the depth of the lines. The primary function of these markers is to identify the location of the pipeline generally as an alert to those who might be working along the pipeline corridor for another utility or during the construction of homes or businesses nearby. You should be aware of any pipeline markers in your neighborhood. As the saying goes, "Know your neighbors." Write down the name and phone numbers appearing on the pipeline markers in case of emergency.

Pipeline markers are important for the safety of the general public. It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline signs or right-of-way marker.



How you tell where a pipeline is located

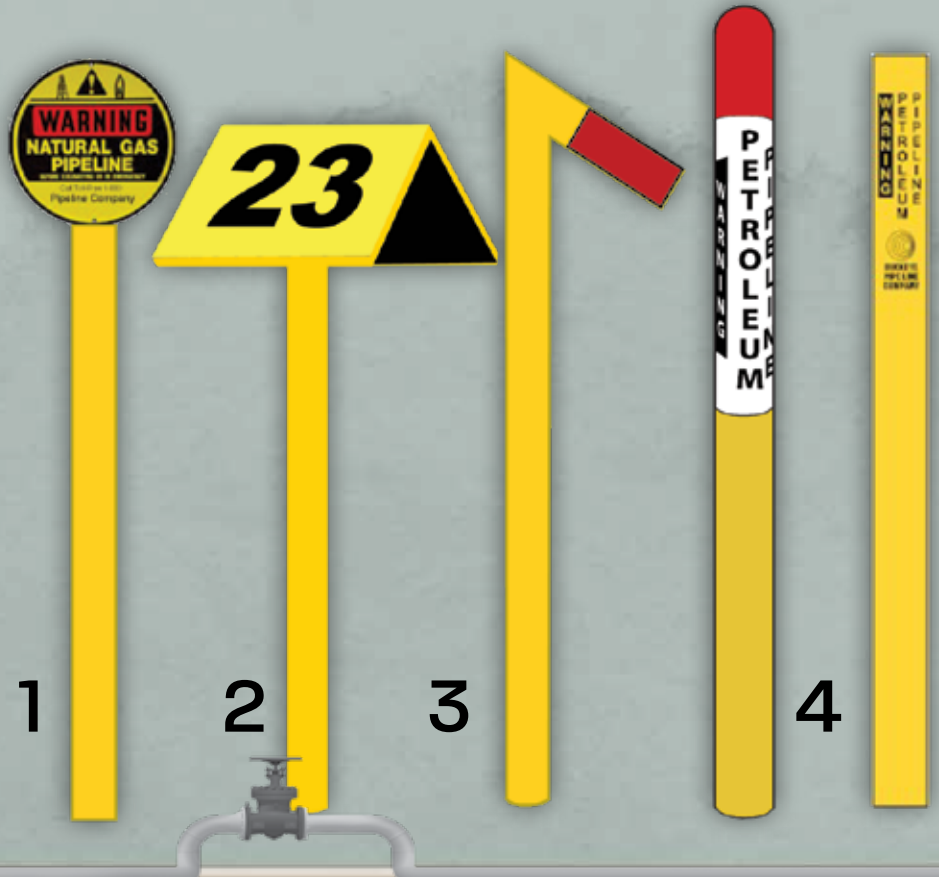
Look for these signs

1. Located near roads, railroads and along the pipeline right-of-way

2. Marker for pipeline patrol planes

3. Pipeline casing vent

4. Painted metal, plastic or fiberglass posts



What to do if a Pipeline is Damaged or Disturbed

One of the greatest single challenges to safe pipeline operations is the accidental damage caused by excavation, construction, farming activities, or even homeowner construction and maintenance. Before you dig or excavate, contact the One-Call Center by simply dialing 811 from anywhere in the United States. Please call before you start your project, whether landscaping, building fences or performing a major construction project. Pipeline companies and other utilities will mark the location of their lines at no cost to you. Pipeline and utility markers may not show the exact location of the buried lines. When excavating near pipelines, many companies will require that they have a pipeline company representative onsite to inspect and protect the underground pipeline. Failure to call 811 before excavation is the leading cause of damages to buried pipelines. One simple call can help keep you out of harm's way.

Even if you cause what appears to be only minor damage to the pipeline, immediately notify the pipeline company. A gouge, scrape, dent or crease to the pipe or coating may cause a future rupture or leak. It is critical that a cut or broken tracer wire be repaired. It is imperative that the pipeline owner inspects and repairs any damage to the line or related apparatus. Many states have laws requiring damages to be reported to the facility owner and/or the One-Call center by dialing 811. Do not attempt to make the repairs to the line yourself. If a line is ruptured or leaking call 911. Contact the pipeline company as quickly as possible. Pipeline marker signs show the pipeline company's name, emergency telephone number and pipeline contents.

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So what exactly do all these pipelines transport?

There is a wide range of products traveling through the thousands of miles of pipelines, everything from gas for your car to oxygen for hospitals. Many of these products can be highly flammable, harmful if inhaled, cause eye or skin irritation or possibly cause difficulty breathing. Some of the materials could cause environmental damage. Because of these potential hazards, it is important for our neighbors to be able to recognize a pipeline leak.

Recognizing a pipeline leak

Using your sense of sight, smell and sound will help you in recognizing a suspected leak.

see

- A dense, white cloud or fog over a pipeline
- Discolored vegetation surrounding the pipeline
- Bubbling in water or creeks or an oily sheen on water
- Frozen ground in warm weather
- Dirt blowing up from the ground

smell

An unusual smell or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany a pipeline leak.

hear

An unusual noise coming from the pipeline, such as a hissing or roaring sound, may be a sign of a leak.

What TO DO If You Suspect a Leak

Immediately leave the area.

If possible turn off any equipment being used in or near the suspected leak. Abandon any equipment being used and move upwind from the suspected leak.

From a safe location, call 911 or your local emergency response number and the pipeline company. Call collect, if needed, and give your name, phone number, description of the leak and its location.

Warn others to stay away when possible.

What NOT TO DO If You Suspect a Leak

Do not touch, breathe or make contact with the leaking liquids or gas. Stay upwind if possible.

Do not light a match, start an engine, use a telephone, turn on or off any type of electrical switch such as a light, garage door opener, etc. or do anything that may create static or a spark.

Do not attempt to extinguish any pipeline fire that may start.

Do not drive into a leak or vapor cloud area. Automobile engines may ignite the vapors.

Do not attempt to operate valves.

Pipeline Operator's Actions during an Emergency In the unlikely event of an accident or leak, the pipeline operator who is notified will immediately dispatch personnel to the site to help handle the emergency and to provide information to public safety officials to assist in their response to the emergency. Pipeline technicians will also take quick action such as starting and stopping pumps or compressors, closing and opening valves, and similar steps to minimize the impact of the situation. These responders are heavily trained throughout the year to ensure their neighborhood is returned to its well-being.


High Consequence Areas In accordance with federal regulations, some areas near pipelines have been designated as High Consequence Areas. For these areas, supplemental hazard assessment and prevention programs known as Integrity Management Programs have been developed. If a pipeline operator has High Consequence Areas, information about these plans may be available through their company's website or by contacting the operator's corporate offices.

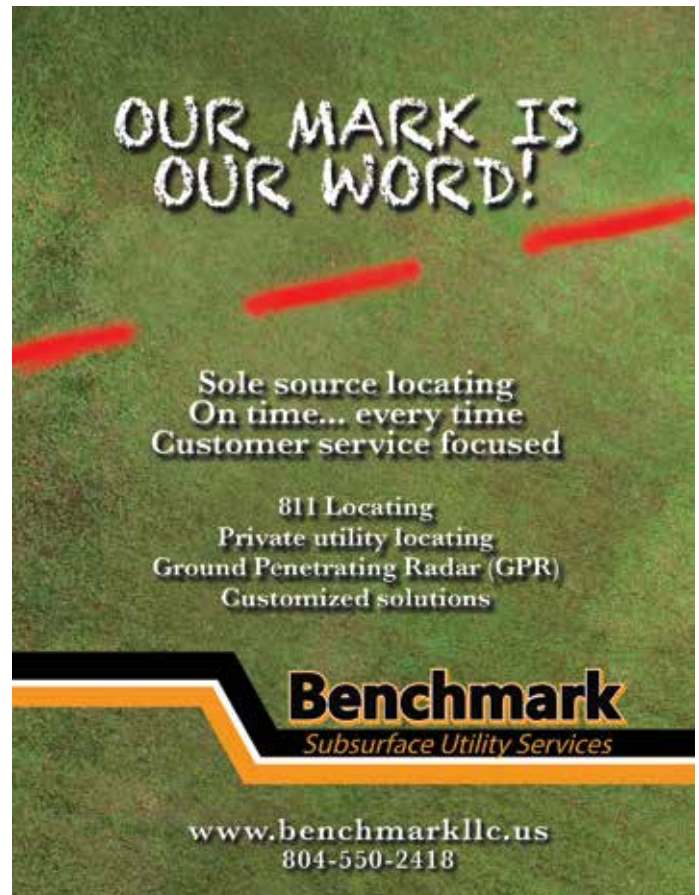
There is a wide range of products traveling through the thousands of miles of pipelines, everything from gas for your car to oxygen for hospitals. Many of these products can be highly flammable, harmful if inhaled, cause eye or skin irritation or possibly cause difficulty breathing. Some of the materials could cause environmental damage. Because of these potential hazards, it is important for our neighbors to be able to recognize a pipeline leak.

Can Owners Build or Dig on a Right-Of-Way? Pipeline rights-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance, as well as in the event of an emergency. If a pipeline crosses your property, please do not plant trees or large shrubs on the right-of-way. Do not dig, build, store or place anything on or near the rights-of-way without first having the pipeline company's personnel mark the pipeline or stake the rights-of-way and explain the company's construction and easement requirements to you.

We Need Your Help The nation's infrastructures, including pipelines, are a matter of national security. If you witness suspicious activity on a pipeline right-of-way, please report it to the appropriate authorities as soon as possible, or you may call the pipeline operator's numbers. Threat advisories may be found at the Department of Homeland Security's website www.dhs.gov/dhspublic.

National Pipeline Mapping System For information about pipelines operating in your area, you may contact the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS). This database of pipeline operators and the location of their lines was designed for the public to have access to contact information for pipeline companies operating in your area. This information can be found at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov. Visit <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/offices/office-pipeline-safety> for more information. For information on safe excavation, go online and visit <https://commongroundalliance.com>

Awareness is the key to preventing pipeline accidents. You can contribute to the safety and security of your neighborhood by knowing where pipelines are, and knowing how to recognize unauthorized activity or signs of a leak, as well as how to respond in the case of a pipeline accident. Pipeline companies continue to strive to be good neighbors, and just like any good neighborhood watch program, neighbors look out for each other. Join in with the pipeline companies to keep our families safe. 



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2024 LOUISIANA damage prevention Summit

A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

Take a look at what you're missing out on!



The Exhibit Hall was jumping throughout the event.



Enjoying good food with good friends.



Louisiana Gas Association is an annual Gold Sponsor.



Disaster Preparedness Roundtable



Cole Vanderlick and Billy Forest at the Louisiana 811 booth.



Silver Sponsor Keith Lott's Plumbing at the Summit.



2024 Locate Rodeo

This year's competition was the largest with twenty-four entrants competing for a \$1,250 grand prize! Special thanks to Molly Smith of Kinder Morgan and Daniel Brooks of T. Baker Smith for Chairing the Locate Rodeo!



**Before you dig,
dig this.**

Pipeline safety starts from the ground up.

Always call 811 before you dig. It's the law.

Get more pipeline safety information at xtoenergy.com.




LOUISIANA GAS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

PIPELINE SAFETY CONFERENCE

AUG 12-15, 2024 | HILTON RIVERSIDE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

Find more info at LouisianaGas.org/PSC



GASTEC Expo Day
March 13 | Zachary, LA

Scholarship Golf Tournament
May 16 | Jennings, LA

College Scholarship Program
July 1 | Application Deadline

Sporting Clay Tournament
October 4 | Port Allen, LA



Want to make sure you're in the know?
Scan the code to add your email to our list!



2024 Locate Rodeo Winners

(l to r) *Telcom, Adam Templet, T. Baker Smith, 2nd Overall & Gas, Dustin Charbonnet, Atmos Energy, Locate From Hell, Nicholas Jernigan, Entergy, Over All & Power, James Henning, Entergy.*

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Traveling with *Louisiana* 811



Billy Forest presenting at CLECO



Jeff Morrison at North LA Ag Expo



Billy Forest with CenterPoint Damage Prevention Coordinator, Nathan Viator



Billy Forest with Greg Galle from DNR and Nathan Viator from CenterPoint at SLCC



Billy Forest presenting at Mastec



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DRIVING CHANGE

INSPIRING INNOVATION

In the era of advanced hydro excavators, it's common to underestimate the significance of the potholing nozzle attached to the wand. Nonetheless, when it comes to vacuum excavation efficiency, the nozzle selection frequently plays a pivotal role. Elements such as nozzle rotation, spray pattern, and size directly impact cutting effectiveness and water consumption. The Vermeer QuickDig™ nozzle is up to 35% more efficient than traditional rotary nozzles, using less water and time. Its slower rotation enhances digging power, control, and reduces wear. [Contact your local dealer's website to learn more.](#)

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