

# USANorth Damage Prevention Update

Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.

## USANorth Online

USA North offers a variety of online services for the excavator. Currently, there are three great ways to take advantage of these services. The Notice Creation ticket entry program allows the user to create new dig notification requests. This enables the excavator to free himself from making the call to the one call center. The Notice Manager program makes it convenient to extend, renew, request remarks, or send follow-up messages to the utilities on their tickets. The Design Inquiry program is extremely valuable to those in the design stage of their excavation. All of these programs are easy to navigate. USA North also provides a full support staff for these internet programs.

The Notice Creation program is easy to use. We at USA North aim to ensure that our users are confident in using the program. This process begins with an online training session that anyone with an internet connection can participate in. The online training usually lasts for about an hour and covers topics such as location description, mapping, and the various procedures involved in submitting a ticket online. Then the user is provided with a username and password allowing them to login to the system and start entering their own dig tickets.

The user will be monitored during the trial phase of their time with the program, to ensure accuracy. The trial period will end after 20 tickets with no errors have been submitted consecutively. Each ticket submitted during the trial period will be required to have a 3-day working notice, as opposed to the 2-day

notice required for excavations called into USA North. This is so the USA staff has time to review the accuracy of the ticket information submitted. After the user has completed the trial period, they will then be able to enter tickets with a 2-day working notice. By working with the USA North support team and following the guidelines the Notice Creation process will go smoothly for everyone.

The Notice Manager program will give you access to all of your company's tickets. You'll be able to request remarks, send follow up messages, as well as extend or renew your tickets. There is a brief online training session to get the user familiar with the program, and after receiving a username and password the user will be free to use the program with no trial period involved. The program allows the user to look up tickets according to a specific ticket number or according to other search criteria. The search tools can be a valuable aid in managing your extensions and renewals, and are available for a yearly subscription fee.

Design Inquiry is designed for those users who need access to the Utility contact information. Instead of calling the front office and paying a fee for each design research request, the user can enter their own location online, and get the utility contact information immediately. Again, there is a brief training session that will familiarize the user with the various steps required to submit accurate information and mapping for their locations. By using the Design Inquiry program you can receive the contact information for all your design projects

immediately, at any time of day, every day of the year.

It is USA North's policy to provide our customers with the best support and services we can provide. The Notice Creation, Notice Manager, and Design Inquiry programs are valuable tools for both operators and excavators to utilize.

Please see our website [www.usanorth.org](http://www.usanorth.org) for more information on these programs. Or you can contact the USA North support staff to answer any of your questions. Joe West at (925) 798-9504 Ext 2309 or Vladimir Lerma at (925) 798-9504 Ext 2319.

## By Popular Demand

**YOU ASKED, WE LISTENED!**  
Need a copy of your Excavation Ticket? USA North has been listening to your requests. We now offer, free of charge, copies of your tickets on our web site. Go to Excavators/Ticket Copy and enter your six digit ticket number. Zero's will proceed your ticket number if it is less than 6 digits.



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

The new 811 number is a national "Call Before You Dig" phone number designated by the FCC to eliminate the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers and help save lives by minimizing damages to underground utilities. One easy phone call to 811 quickly begins the process of getting underground utility lines marked.

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## Nevada Contractors Recognition

On behalf of the Northern Nevada Contractor Recognition SAFE Event Committee, 2008 will mark our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Event. The purpose of the Contractor Recognition SAFE Event is to recognize the tremendous contribution that contractors make in damage prevention to underground facilities thereby safe guarding employees, the public and essential public services. The committee will be giving awards to the top three contractors in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Storey and Washoe Counties. The awards will identify the three selected contractors as leaders in safety for their industry. This year the event will be held at the Nugget Casino in Carson City, NV on September 10, 2008.

## SAFE Events

SAFE is our acronym for Safety Awareness for Excavators. Please plan to attend one of our FREE Safety presentations this year. These events are held throughout Central/Northern California and Nevada. See our Events Calendar on the web site [www.usanorth.org](http://www.usanorth.org) to find a date and location near you.

## CONTACT US:

If you have Newsletter suggestions contact us via Email at: [USANorthDPUpdate@usan.org](mailto:USANorthDPUpdate@usan.org)  
Or by mail at:

**USA North DP Update**  
**4090 Nelson Avenue Suite A**  
**Concord CA 94520-1232**

Let us know what issues you would like to see the newsletter address.

## USA North in Nevada



Public Relations spent a week in April meeting with Stakeholders, Excavators and Operators in Fallon, Winnemucca and Elko NV. During those meetings Don Heyer spoke about the changes in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. An important part of that training dealt with the new excavation laws that will be effective on July 1, 2008. The hand digging tolerance zone will change from 30 inches to 24 inches. The tickets will be good for 28 days from date of issuance. Call in your tickets 2 working days in advance, and we suggest no longer than 14 calendar days in advance.

## Industry Conference Information



Please plan to join us for the 2008 Damage Prevention Conference December 9-10, 2008 Riviera Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, NV. See the DPC Web Site for details from the 2007 meeting.

[www.damageprevention.com](http://www.damageprevention.com)



Don't miss out on next years CGA Excavation Safety Conference. The three day event will be filled with guest speakers, conference sessions, CGA annual meetings, Indoor and Outdoor Exhibits and Demonstrations, culminating with the National Industry Summits The conference is scheduled for Feb 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, Florida. Hope to see you there. See the web site for details.

<http://www.cgaconference.com/>

## Frequently Asked Questions

I am a Contractor working for a homeowner on private property. Who is required to call in a locate request the excavator or homeowner? California Gov. Code 4216.(c) requires that the excavator with his equipment or employees performing the excavation to call the excavation in.

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There were several changes to the Best Practices in Version 5.0. Here is a quick look at some of the changes.

1. The Best Practices Committee added icons representing the 6 general types of stakeholders (Project Owner [triangle], Facility Owner [square], Excavator [circle], Notification Center [pentagon], Designer [cross], & Locator [circle with hole]). Next to each Best Practice is listed the icon (s) informing the reader which stakeholder (s) that Best Practice applies to.
2. TR 2007-01 modified Practice Statement (page 7 and page 19)
  - a. **Planning & Design Practices 2-1:**
  - b. **Version 4.0 "2-1: Plat Designation Of Existing Underground Facility Easements Practice Statement:** Plats involving development of real property include the designation of underground facility easements."
  - c. **Version 5.0 modification "2-1: Plat Designation Of Existing Underground Facility Easements Practice Statement:** Plats prepared for the development of real property identify and show the alignment of any existing buried facilities and the presence and extent of any existing easements and/or Rights of Way. (underline indicates changes)
3. TR 2007-02 modified Practice Statement (page 8 and page 24)
  - a. **Planning & Design Practice 2-14:**
  - b. **Version 4.0 "2-14: Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Practice Statement:** When applied properly during the design phase, SUE provides significant cost and damage avoidance benefits\*."
  - c. **Version 5.0 modification "2-14: Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Practice Statement:** When applied properly during the design phase, SUE provides significant cost and damage avoidance benefits and the opportunity to correct inaccuracies in existing facility records."
4. TR 2007-03 addition of Practice Statement (page 8 and pages 24 & 25)
  - a. **Planning & Design Practice 2-15:**
  - b. **Version 4.0 there is no 2-15**
  - c. **Version 5.0 addition "2-15 Use of Qualified Designers Practice Statement:** Project owners employ qualified design and SUE providers."
5. TR 2007-03 modification of Practice Description (page 40)
  - a. **Locating and Marking Best Practices 4-10:**
  - b. **Version 4.0 "4-10: Multiple Facilities In The Same Trench Are Marked Individually And With Corridor Markers. Practice Description:** In general, the number of lines marked on the surface equal the number of lines buried below. "All facilities within the same trench should be individually marked and identified. In situations where two facilities share the same color code (such as telephone and CATV) both facilities should be identified and the marks placed parallel, but with enough separation so that they may be readily identified. In circumstances where the total number of lines buried in the same trench by a single facility owner/operator may not be readily known, a corridor marker is used. The corridor mark indicates the width of the facility. (See Appendix B: Uniform Color Code & Marking Guidelines)"
  - c. **Version 5.0 deletion "4-10: Multiple Facilities In The Same Trench Are Marked Individually And With Corridor Markers. Practice Description:** In general, the number of lines marked on the surface equal the number of lines buried below. ~~"All facilities within the same trench should be individually marked and identified. In situations where two facilities share the same color code (such as telephone and CATV) both facilities should be identified and the marks placed parallel, but with enough separation so that they may be readily identified.~~ In circumstances where the total number of lines buried in the same trench by a single facility owner/operator may not be readily known, a corridor marker is used. The corridor mark indicates the width of the facility. (See Appendix B: Uniform Color Code & Marking Guidelines)"

I hope this helps when you refer to the Best Practices Version 5.0 manuals.

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## USA North Administration:

### Center's Office Number

All Extensions - - - - 925-798-9504

### Administration Assistant

Linda Whitley - - - - - ext 0

### Operations Department

Leah Keyes, Lynda Bloxsom & Voltaire Lerma - ext 1

### Operations / Public Relations Manager

Don Heyer - - - - - ext 4

### General Manager

Mike Heyer - - - - - ext 5

### Public Relations Support

Jamie Moreno - - - - - ext 6

### Public Relations Assistant

Patrice Lynn - - - - - ext 7

### IT Manager / Operations Supervisor

Chris Brassart - - - - - ext 8

### Bookkeeper

Tonie Ibarra - - - - - ext 9

### IRTHNet Tech Support

Vladimir Lerma ext 2319 & Joe West - ext 2309

### Mailing Address:

4090 Nelson Avenue Suite A  
Concord CA 94520-1232

Fax: 925-798-9506

Email: [usanorth@usan.org](mailto:usanorth@usan.org)

Website: [www.usanorth.org](http://www.usanorth.org)

## USA North's Coverage Area:

Central & Northern California: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Nevada: Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine.

## 2008 Federal and State Holiday Schedule

<u>Holidays</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Center</u>
<u>New Years Day</u>	01/01/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Martin Luther King's</u>	01/21/08	CA/NV	Open
<u>Lincoln's</u>	02/12/08	CA	Open
<u>President's Day</u>	02/18/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Cesar Chavez Day</u>	03/31/08	CA	Open
<u>Memorial Day</u>	05/26/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Independence Day</u>	07/04/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Labor Day</u>	09/01/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Columbus Day</u>	10/13/08	CA	Open
<u>Nevada Day</u>	10/31/08	NV	Open
<u>Veteran's Day</u>	11/11/08	CA/NV	Open
<u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	11/27/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Family Day</u>	11/28/08	CA/NV	Closed
<u>Christmas Day</u>	12/25/08	CA/NV	Closed

### Note:

Federal holidays are printed in red and State holidays are printed in blue (the State that observes the holiday is listed under the State column). Both California and Nevada One-Call Laws, do not allow Federal or State Holidays to be included as part of the two working day notice for the excavation notification. Holidays falling on a Saturday will be observed on the Friday before and holidays falling on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday. Excluding the eight (8) holidays underlined above the Center's hours are:

**Operations Hours; M-F** 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.  
**Office Hours; M-F** 7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

### Important Web Links:

- ◆ American Public Works Association – [www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)
- ◆ California Law – [www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=gov&codebody=4216&hits=20](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=gov&codebody=4216&hits=20)
- ◆ Common Ground Alliance – [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com)
- ◆ Dig Safely – [www.digsafely.com](http://www.digsafely.com)
- ◆ Office of Pipeline Safety – <http://ops.dot.gov/>
- ◆ Nevada Law – [www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-455.html](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-455.html)

USA North – [www.usanorth.org](http://www.usanorth.org)