

UNDERGROUND NEWS

WINTER 2023/2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Executive Director's Corner
- Webinar Wednesdays
- The Summit Recap
- Bootcamps
- Locator Training
- Excavator Education Program
- Web Mapping Services
- MORE!



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MISSOURI-811.ORG | 811



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S CORNER:
WE'LL TAKE THE CHALLENGE**



In 2023, Common Ground Alliance issued a challenge to states to reduce damages 50% in five years. That is an ambitious goal! However, Missouri 811 has accepted this challenge and beginning with our new year we will look to keep reducing, and monitoring, the number of "damages" in Missouri.

When I accepted this challenge, the first thing that came to reality was, "How many damages do we have?" It has always somewhat baffled me where organizations get their numbers, especially when broad statements are made about damages and how many there are. In fact, I could find no formal counting of damages. Many look to the D.I.R.T. Report, but that is voluntary and is skewed in that manner. I've seen references to other "reports", but they had no explanation as to how they arrived at their numbers. Others speak about allowing for unreported damages. I like simple and common sense. In Missouri, the number of damages that are reported to the notification center comes by way of our "Dig Up" tickets. That is a stable resource reliable in its action in Missouri and that is the baseline by which we will begin our measure. Therefore, in 2023 Missouri had 14,562 Dig Up tickets out of the total 1,140,929 locate request tickets processed.

Is it possible to reduce that to 7,281 Dig Up tickets by the close of 2028? Yes. Is it probable to reduce that to 7,281 Dig Up tickets by the close of 2028? I would say no, not probable. We must start with a goal, and anything achieved towards that goal is an improvement.

Safe digging is up to us.

As always, my service to you will improve with your input. Please contact me at any time with your thoughts and ideas.



Missouri 811 is thrilled to introduce our educational series, Webinar Wednesdays, in collaboration with One Call Concepts, Inc. (OCC). Join us for engaging sessions designed to elevate your proficiency in groundbreaking damage prevention software every second and fourth Wednesday.

Your Midweek Learning Peak

Every other Wednesday unfolds into a powerhouse of knowledge with two distinct webinar sessions. Kickstart your morning at 9 a.m. CT with a live demonstration of ITICnxt.

ITICnxt Live Demonstrations

Exclusively tailored for professional excavators, our ITICnxt webinars offer a comprehensive walk-through of the map-first web system. This platform has been meticulously engineered to streamline your locate request process online, making it faster and more efficient than ever. Each session begins promptly at 9 a.m. CT and spans approximately 45 minutes — a compact timeframe designed to fit into your busy schedule.

During these interactive webinars, you'll learn:

Navigation Mastery: How to seamlessly navigate the interface of ITICnxt for optimal use.
Efficient Ticket Management: Strategies to create, manage, and track your locate requests with ease.

Advanced Features: Utilizing the full suite of ITICnxt's capabilities to enhance your workflow.

Engage and Empower

Each Webinar Wednesday is more than just a demonstration — it's an interactive experience. We encourage you to engage with our experts, ask questions, and discuss scenarios to get the most out of the software.

No Cost, High Value

True to Missouri 811's mission, these webinars are offered at no charge. We invest in your education because we believe informed stakeholders are the foundation of a safer community.

Don't let the digital age of damage prevention pass you by. Embrace the opportunity to enhance your skills with Missouri 811's Webinar Wednesdays. Sign up today and become a leader in safe excavation practices.

<https://missouri-811.org/meetings-events/category/webinars/>



Missouri 811 is excited to be partnering with Jeff Trowbridge from Subsurface Solutions to bring FREE utility locator trainings to an area near you in the months of June through August! Jeff has 20-plus years of experience in the locating industry, and his training offers classroom-style for locator theory, as well as outdoor hands-on training.

If possible, bring your own locate equipment. If you don't have equipment available to you, there will be some extra sets to use during training.

These training sessions will be tailored, specifically, to utility locators.

The five main topics that we'll be addressing in these training sessions will be:

- *Grounding principles*
- *Locator kit functionality*
- *Locating theory*
- *Best practices*
- *One Call law*
- *Manhattan Fire Station*

Be sure to sign up for a training near you, by visiting the Missouri 811 website! Spots are filling up quickly and are limited, based on location. Missouri 811's Member Operations Manager, Sarah Galbraith, and your local Damage Prevention Manager will also be on-site to answer any questions you may have regarding your membership, notifications, positive response, the system, and more. So, feel free to stop in even if you do not need locator training!

Free Expert Training and Assistance: Missouri 811's Commitment to Damage Prevention

Missouri 811 is proud to offer unparalleled support in damage prevention and safety education — at no cost. Our dedicated Damage Prevention Managers are on standby to provide expert assistance and training, ensuring that Missouri remains a leader in safe excavation practices.



One Call Law and Beyond

Understanding the One Call law is essential for anyone involved in excavation. Our Damage Prevention Managers are ready to answer any questions you might have, whether you're a seasoned contractor or a first-time homeowner looking to start a project. We believe informed individuals are the cornerstone of effective damage prevention.

Customized Training

Education is most effective when it's accessible. That's why our Damage Prevention Managers offer custom training for your team. Tailored to meet the needs of excavators, utility members, homeowners, and other stakeholders, our training covers a range of vital topics, including:

- **Marking Standards:** Learn the ins and outs of proper marking to avoid service interruptions and ensure public safety.
- **Damage Investigations:** Our experts will guide you through the process of investigating and reporting any incidents, mitigating risks, and preventing future occurrences.
- **Excavation Safety:** Get comprehensive insights on best practices to maintain a safe work environment during any digging project.
- **Homeowner Assistance:** We provide tailored advice to homeowners to ensure their projects comply with legal requirements and are executed safely.

No Fees, Just Safety

We're committed to the safety and education of our community. All this valuable assistance and training comes at no cost.

Take advantage of the expertise offered by Missouri 811's Damage Prevention Managers. Let's work together to prevent damage and protect our community. Contact us today to schedule your free training session or to get answers to your One Call law queries.



Gas and Pipeline Operators:

Missouri 811 would like to remind you to review and add any excavators on your excavator list to participate in the MO811 sponsored Excavator Education Program to satisfy the PSC and DOT requirements.

Participation Period for 2024

January 10, 2024 - March 15, 2024

How to Participate

Visit: <https://missouri-811.org/members/gas-members/>

Review the list of excavators by searching for their company name, city, or zip code. Entering less data to search will provide more results.

Fill out your company information in the appropriate form.

If an excavator is NOT on our list, select “Yes” to add and provide the excavator’s company name and address.

If you have no additions, simply select “No” and submit the form.

Additional Information

Make sure you enter your email address correctly, otherwise, you will not receive your Proof of Participation email.

If you do not receive the Proof of Participation email, check your junk/spam folder. If you still have problems contact me at 573-556-8117 or send an email to sgalbraith@missouri-811.org.



Ready to level up your safe digging knowledge?

Missouri 811 is hosting a series of Bootcamps designed for any excavator or contractor that is eager to learn the ropes of responsible excavation.

Our hands-on Bootcamp sessions are the perfect opportunity to:

- Deepen your understanding of underground utilities.
- Master the call-before-you-dig process.
- Engage with seasoned professionals.
- Learn best practices to avoid utility damage.

Whether you’re an experienced contractor or new to the field, our Bootcamps are tailored to empower you with the skills and knowledge to dig safely and efficiently.

Spots are limited – sign up today and join a community dedicated to protecting Missouri’s vital infrastructure!

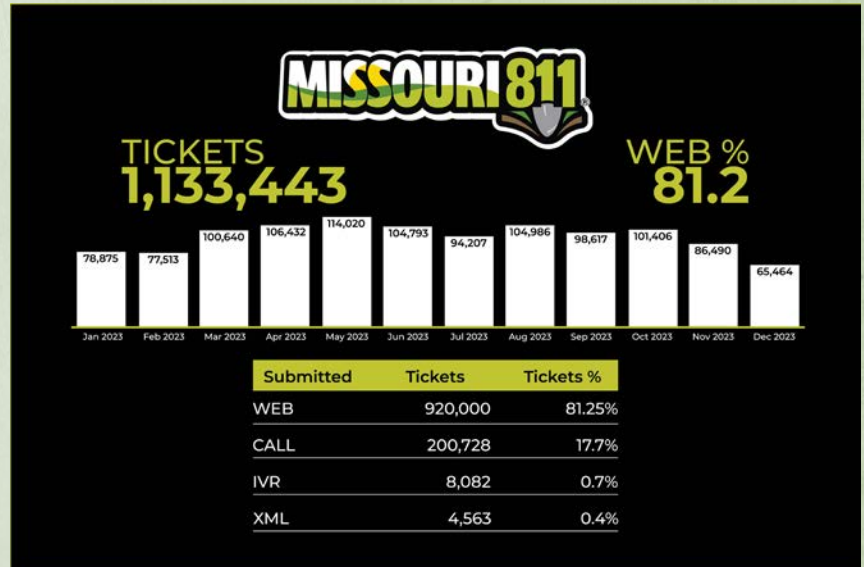
<https://missouri-811.org/meetings-events/category/missouri-811-bootcamp/>



As we step into the new year, it's crucial to reflect on the progress and challenges of the past months. The latest data from Missouri 811 presents a compelling story of digital adoption and areas for growth in the ticket submission process for utility location requests.

A Digital Majority

In 2023, Missouri 811 received a staggering 1,133,443 tickets. A closer inspection reveals a substantial trend: an overwhelming 81.2% of these were submitted via the web. This impressive figure not only underscores the convenience and efficiency of online submissions but also highlights our commitment to modernizing access to utility services.



Monthly Trends

Analyzing the monthly distribution of tickets, we notice a consistent flow with peaks in the warmer months, May and June, topping at 114,020 tickets. This is likely due to increased construction and outdoor activity. The decline towards the year's end, bottoming out at 65,464 in December, could be attributed to colder weather and a slowdown in construction projects.

The Submission Breakdown

Of the total tickets, 920,000 were submitted online, affirming the digital platform as the preferred choice. Traditional phone calls accounted for 200,728 submissions (17.7%), while Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) options were less utilized, with 0.7% and 0.4% respectively.

Missouri 811 remains dedicated to facilitating a safe digging environment by providing an efficient ticket submission system. As we harness technology and data, we're committed to continuous improvement and innovation to serve the Missouri community better.

2023 MOCGA Summit and International Locate Rodeo

Mark A. Woodward
*President, Missouri Common Ground
Alliance*

www.mocommonground.org

On December 6 & 7, 2023 the volunteers of the Missouri Common Ground Alliance (MOCGA) held their annual Damage Prevention and Excavation Safety Summit at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield, MO.

The Summit's purpose is to provide free education to all construction trades to help them prevent jobsite incidents, injuries, and underground utility damages.

Missouri811 (www.missouri-811.org) and Springfield, MO City Utilities (www.cityutilities.net) are the Summit's largest supporters, and they share a purpose of reducing and eliminating underground utility damage incidents.



The International Locate Rodeo (ILR) was also held on December 6 & 7 as part of the MOCGA Summit. Sunny skies, fall leaves, dry conditions, and great daytime temperatures welcomed 51 expert utility locating competitors from 17 states to show their time & accuracy skills. Fifty volunteers from multiple states and industries helped organize, promote, and execute the ILR, which was the third event organized & operated by the volunteers of the Missouri Common Ground Alliance.

Through the generosity of over 100 exhibitors, sponsors, instructors, and donors – over \$650,000 in safety training was provided free of charge at the Summit. The annual MOCGA Summit attracted 1,438 attendees, 200 exhibitor personnel, and 100 volunteers. Over 20 safety sessions, demonstrations, and certification courses were provided, including a live electrical safety demonstration and confined space incident reenactment. The best safety instructors in the United States donated their time to make each safety course helpful, impactful, and memorable.





Mark your calendars! The 2024 MOCGA Summit & International Locate Rodeo is being planned now, and will be held on December 11 & 12 at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield, MO. Find out more by visiting www.mocommonground.org or www.locaterodeo.net. Check out the MOCGA and International Locate Rodeo out on Facebook and LinkedIn, too. Registration for the 2024 ILR opens on May 1, 2024, and Summit registration opens on October 1, 2024.

Questions about the Summit or ILR? Questions about how you can participate? Have a specialty or skill you'd like to put to work? Interested in becoming a supporter? Reach out any time to the Missouri Common Ground Alliance at 573-289-5990 or mocommonground@gmail.com.

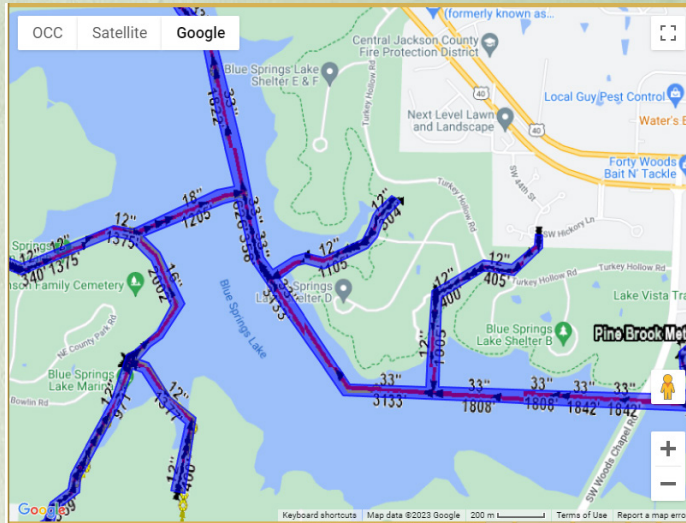
Member utilities can provide Web Map Services (WMS) or Web Feature Services (WFS) links to Missouri 811 to display their facilities within OCC's Locator Ticket Management (LTM) and/or IMAP, making it a convenient way to compare the MO811 ticket information with the facility locations all in one application.



The WMS/WFS links are generated/hosted by the member utility's GIS mapping software and provide instantly synchronized data to Missouri 811/OCC's applications and the utility's locators. The data is kept secure behind login access and displayed only to the users who manage the locate tickets or utility notification areas. WMS/WFS displays are not available to excavators.

Displaying the utility facility locations within LTM assists the locators both in accurately comparing the dig site with the underground facilities to more easily clear a locate ticket and/or be able to confirm locates when marking on site. The facilities are displayed (color, size, symbology) the same as on the utility's end, making it familiar and easily understood with the ticket information. If multiple facility layers are provided, the different layers can be toggled on and off.

Displaying the utility facility locations within IMAP allows GIS users to manually compare and ensure the Missouri 811 notification area fully encompasses where underground facilities are located and where the utility needs to be notified for digging.



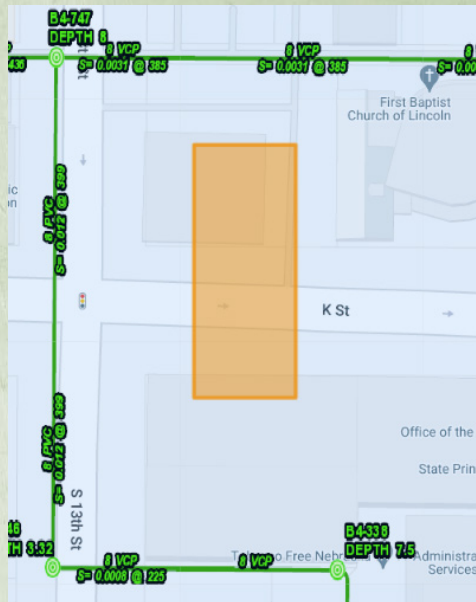
This shows the utility's notification area (blue polygon) and the facility centerline with measurement details (red line, black numeric measurements and arrows, yellow circles - provided via WMS links for display)



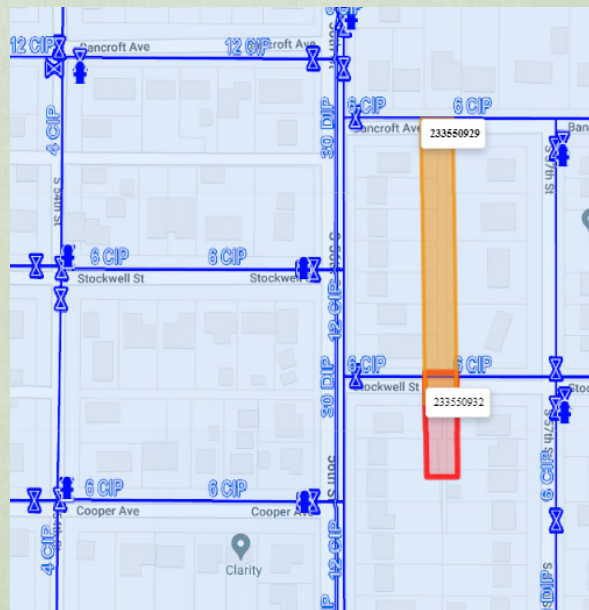
This shows the utility's notification area (blue polygon) and the facility centerline (red dashed line - provided via WMS links for display)



This shows the dig site location (orange polygon), the utility's notification area (blue polygon) and the facility centerline (red dash line - provided via WMS links for display)



This shows the dig site location (orange polygon) and the facility centerline (green line with labels - provided via WMS links for display)



This shows the dig site location (orange polygon), corresponding locate (red polygon) and the facility centerline (blue line and symbols with labels - provided via WMS links for display)

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CLICK OR CALL
3 WORKING DAYS
BEFORE
YOU DIG

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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