



April – National Safe Digging Month



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April – National Safe Dig Month

- April is recognized as National Safe Digging Month (NSDM);
- NSDM serves as a good reminder for homeowners and contractors to call 811 and utilize One Call before digging;
- Calling 811 helps avoid injuries and damages to subsurface utilities.





What is 811- One-Call?

- 811 refers to the easy to remember three-digit number that can be used to call One-Call Centers;
- One-Call refers to the process for providing notification of excavations



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





What is 811 - One-Call?

- The intent of One-Call and use of **811** is to prevent:
 - damages to subsurface facilities,
 - loss of service, and
 - most importantly, injuries or deaths which can result if subsurface facilities are struck.





What is One-Call?

- Except for emergencies, all excavators must contact a One-Call Center and provide it with information related to the intended excavation, such as:
 - work area;
 - date when work will start;
 - scope of work;
 - contact information, etc.





What is One-Call?

Nationwide statistics from the Common Ground Alliance indicate that when a locate request is made prior to an underground excavation, 99% of the time no damages will occur... **THAT MEANS LESS THAN 1% OF DIGS CAUSE DAMAGES WHEN THE EXCAVATORS PROVIDE PROPER NOTICE TO ONE-CALL!**





What is One-Call?

- California Government Code 4216 (GC 4216) governs the One-Call process.
- GC 4216 requires sub-surface facility owners to be members of the applicable One-Call Center(s).
- Exempted from GC 4216:
 - Caltrans,
 - operators of non-pressurized sewers,
 - drain lines,
 - storm drains, and
 - owners of facilities located entirely on their property.
- The One-Call process is **free** for the excavator.





What is One-Call?

- Excavators must notify the applicable One-Call Center at least two business days before excavating.
- The One-Call Centers then notify its members who may have facilities in the work area.
- Members receiving notification must mark the approximate location of subsurface facilities, or provide confirmation to the excavator that the work area is clear.
- Each excavator must take steps to protect subsurface facilities while excavating and report any damages.





Relationship between One-Call and 811

- There are two One-Call Centers in California:
 - **Underground Service Alert (USA North 811)** covers northern California (Oregon Border down to Kern and San Luis Obispo counties)



- **Dig Alert** covers Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Inyo and San Bernardino counties south to the Mexican Border.



- Each One-Call Center has its own 800 phone number.
- **811** dialed calls are automatically routed to the One-Call Center that covers the intended excavation area.
- Each One-Call Center is funded by its membership.





CPUC Efforts to Promote 811



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

**It's Easy
It's Free
It's the Law**



**2008 - Large
811 Posters
placed on bus
shelters near
do-it-yourself
stores.**





CPUC Efforts to Promote 811





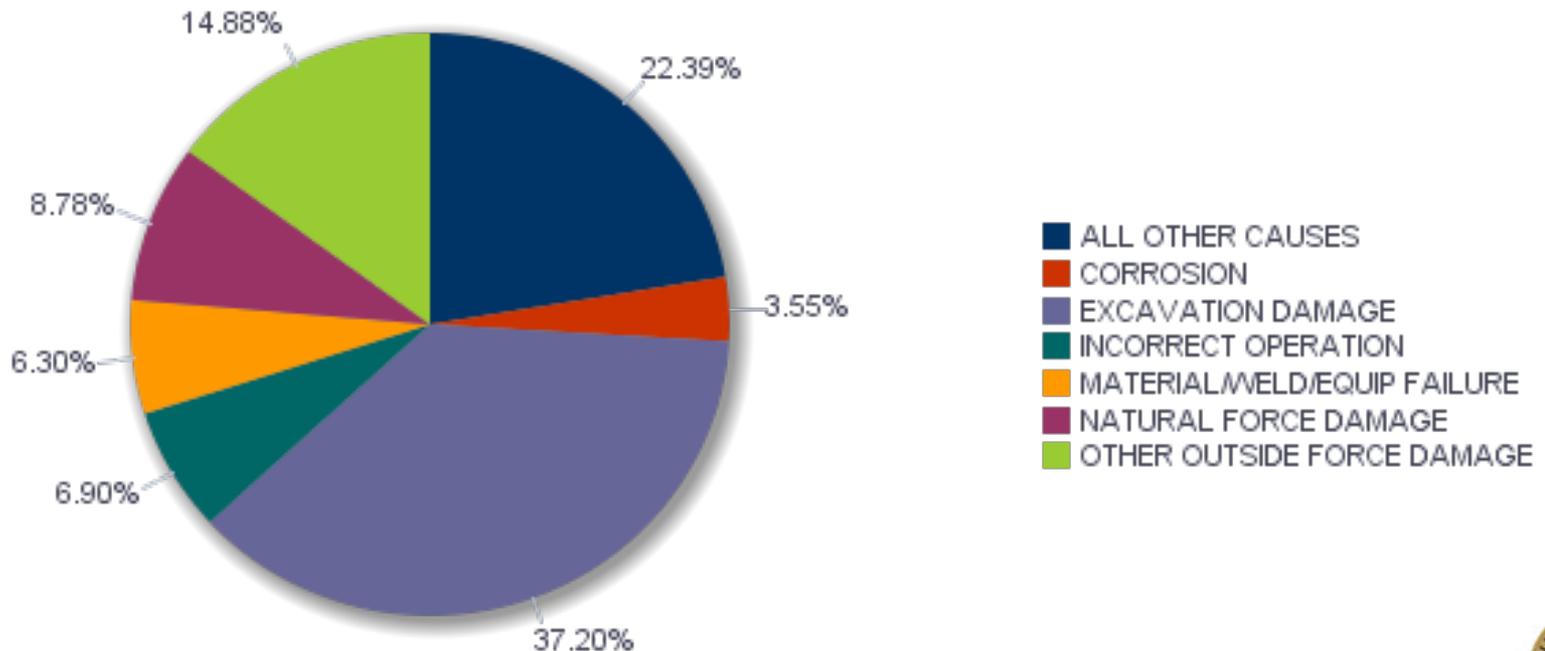
CPUC Efforts to Promote 811





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

Significant Incident Cause Breakdown 20 Year Average (1995-2014) For All Distribution Pipeline



Source: PHMSA

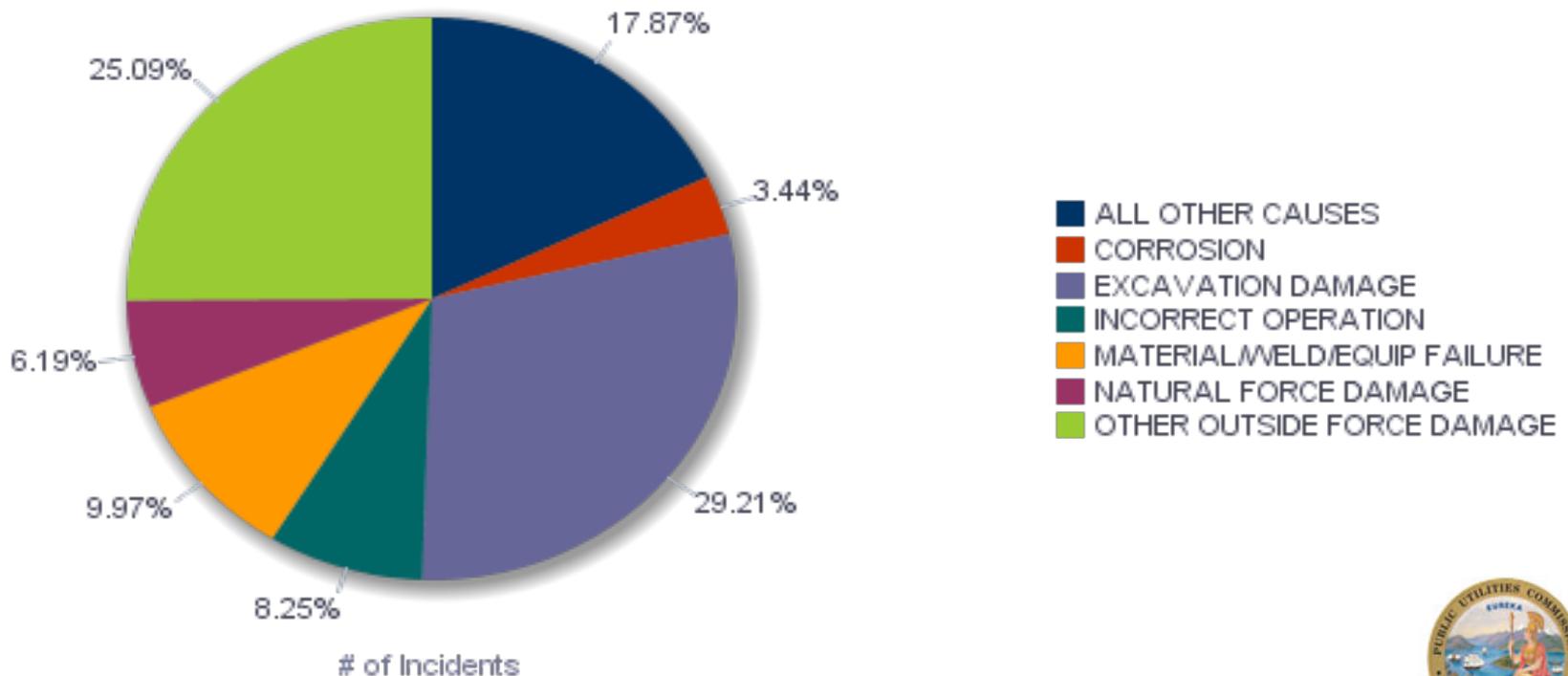
of Incidents





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

Significant Incident Cause Breakdown 5 Year Average (2010-2014) For All Distribution Pipeline



Source: PHMSA





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

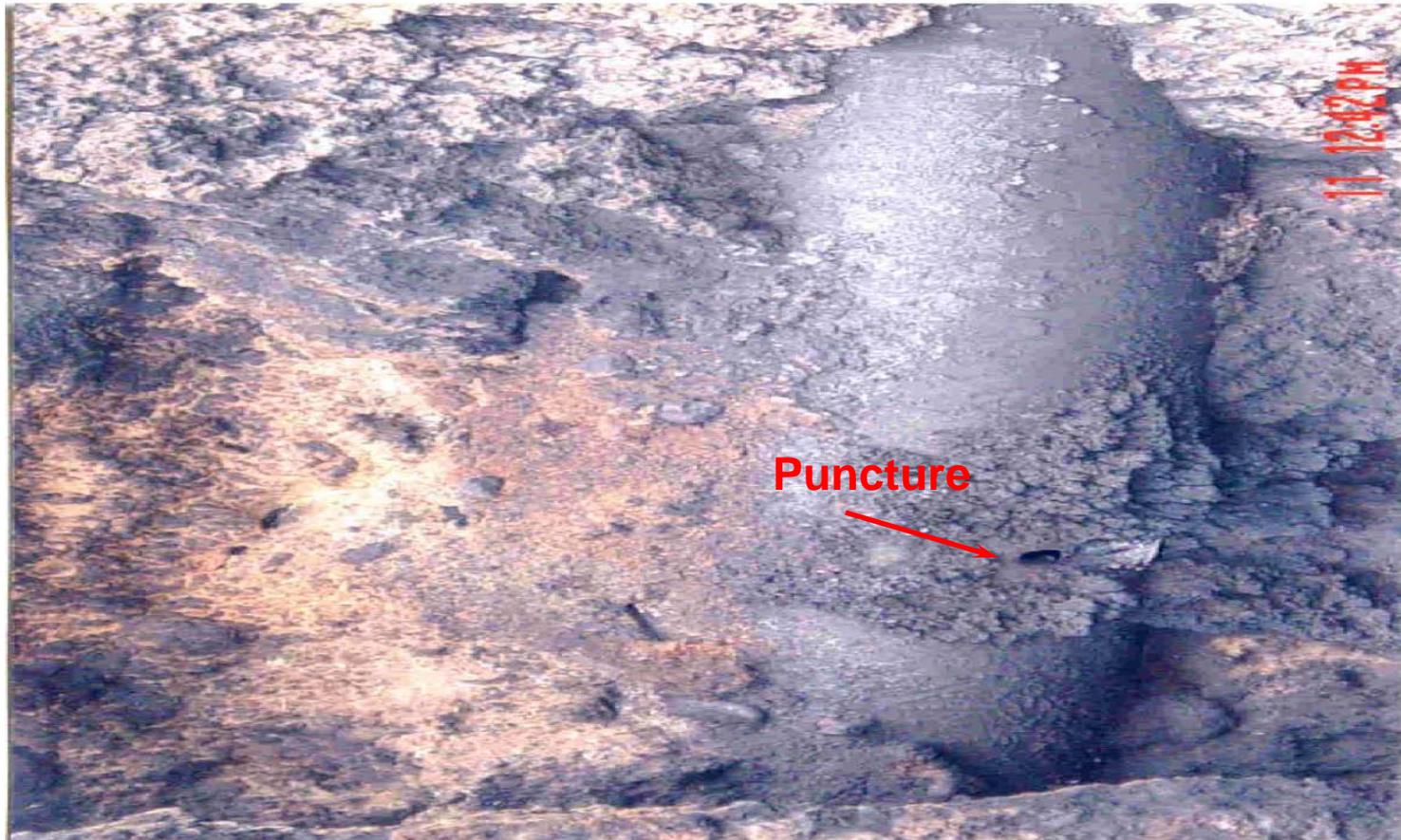


Near Madera – 8-inch Gas Line
August 2003





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices



Walnut Creek - Kinder Morgan LS 16 pipeline with through-wall puncture – November 2004.

Photo Courtesy of CalOSHA





In Summary

- As homeowners proceed on spring projects (e.g., planting drought resistant plants, fencing, setting the mail box, etc.) that involve digging, they should call **811** and utilize One-Call;
- All contractors performing excavation work must conform to the requirements of GC 4216;
- Never assume the depth of subsurface utility facilities and always use hand tools to locate the exact location of subsurface facilities for which owners/operators provide markings;
- Confirming the location of subsurface facilities, or that no facilities exist in the work area, helps avoid damages, injuries, and fatalities.

