



Safety Brief: One Call - 811

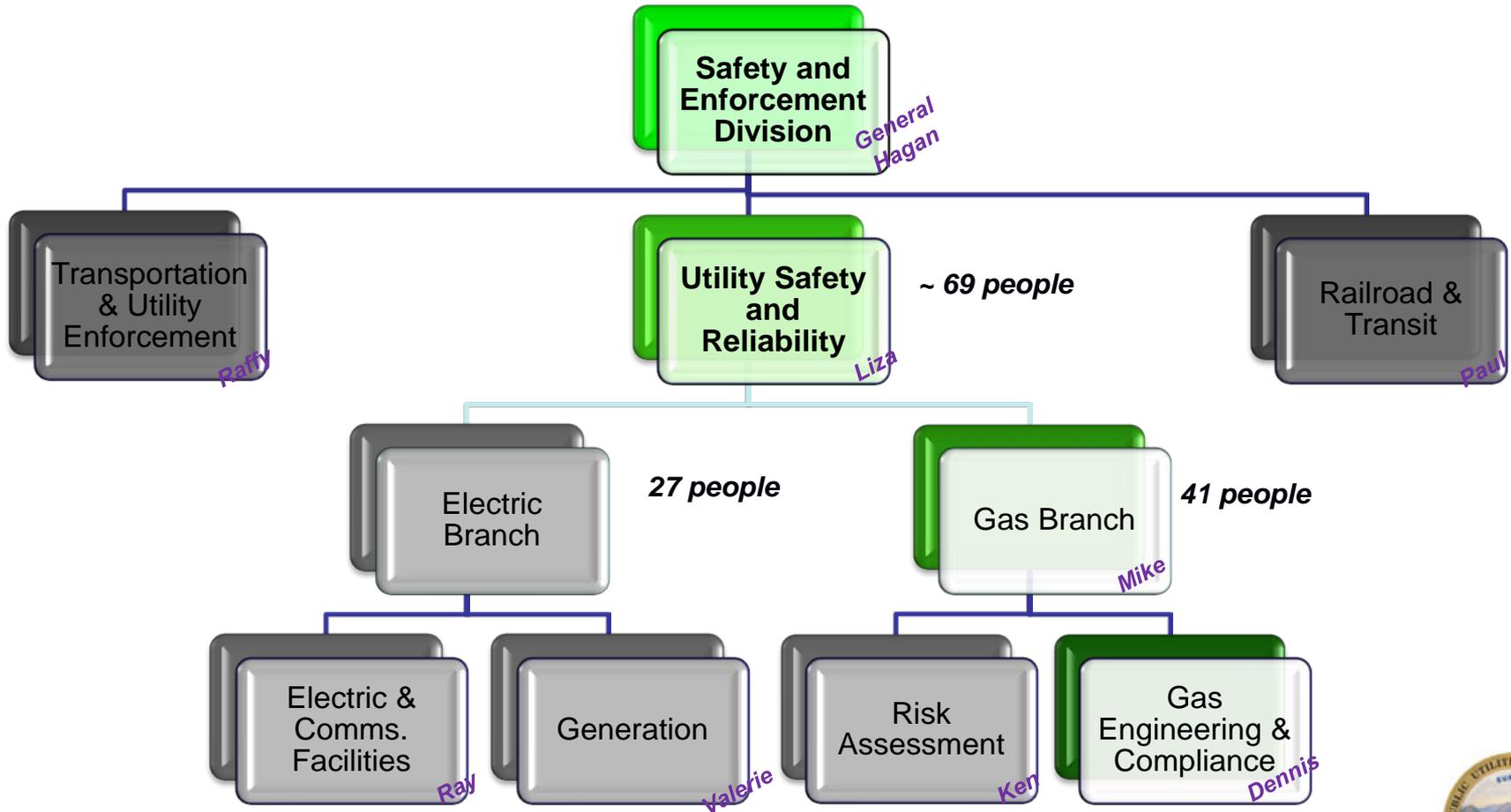


**Sunil Shori, Utilities Engineer
Safety and Enforcement Division
August 15, 2013**





Introduction to SED





What is One-Call?

- All excavators must contact One-Call Centers
- Provide One-Call Centers with information related to the intended excavation:
 - work area,
 - date when work will start,
 - scope of work,
 - contact information, etc.





Intent of the One-Call Process

The intent of One-Call and 811 is to prevent:

- damage to subsurface facilities,
- loss of service, and
- most importantly, injuries or deaths which can result if facilities are struck.





Effectiveness of the One-Call Process

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

**LESS THAN 1% OF DIGS CAUSE DAMAGES WHEN THE
EXCAVATORS PROVIDE PROPER NOTICE TO ONE-CALL**





Rules Governing the One-Call Process

- California Government Code 4216 (GC 4216) governs the One-Call process.
- GC 4216 requires sub-surface facility owners to be members of their local One-Call Center.
- 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.





How Does the One-Call Process Work?

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





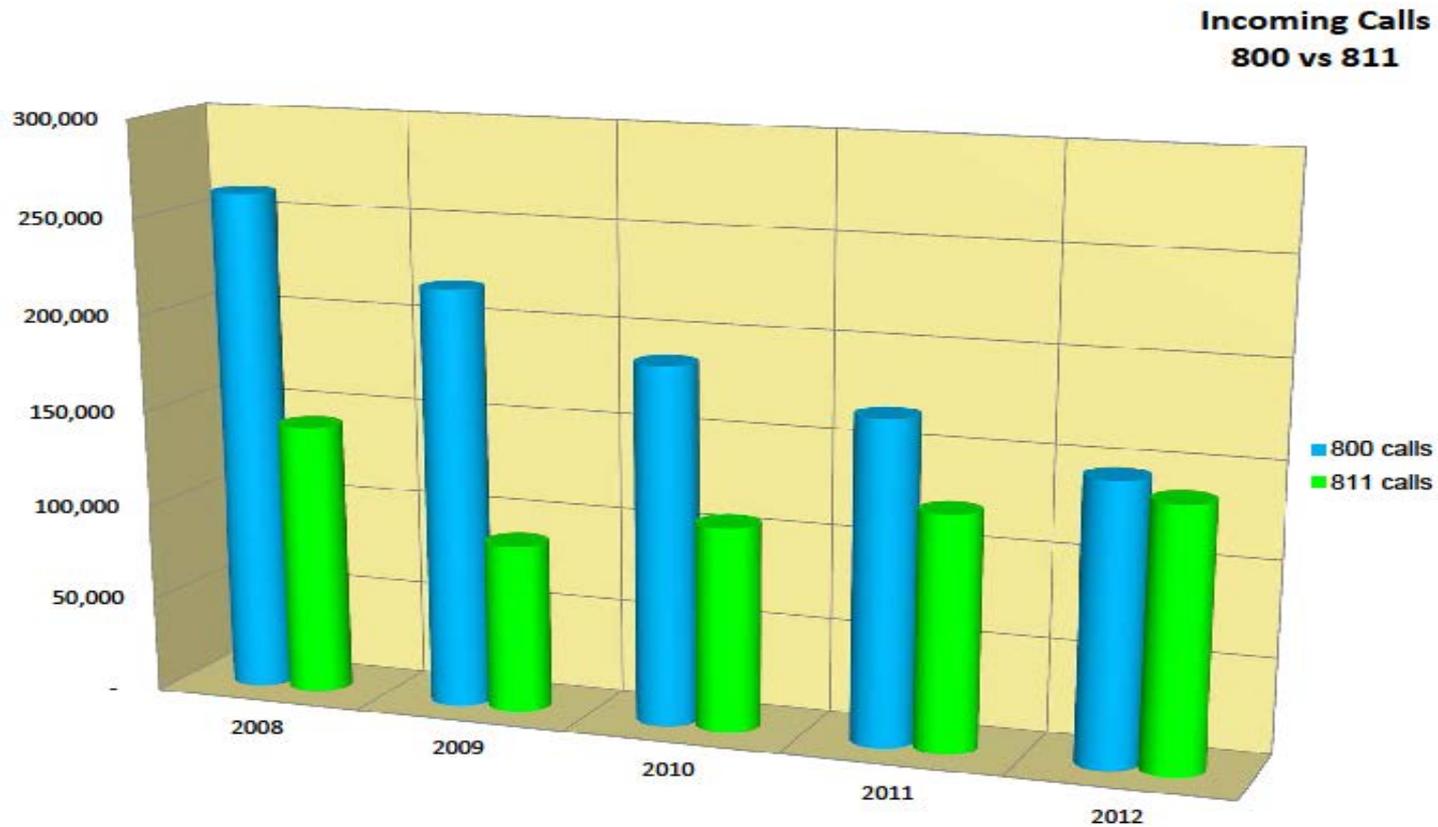
Relationship between One-Call and 811

- There are two One-Call Centers in California:
 - Underground Service Alert (USA North) 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.
- However, both centers also receive calls through the 811 number system, which automatically routes calls.
- Each center is funded by its membership.





800 vs. 811 Calls for Dig Alert 2008- 2012





CPUC Efforts to Promote 811



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

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



A Public Safety Message from the California Public Utilities Commission

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





CPUC Efforts to Promote 811





CPUC Efforts to Promote 811



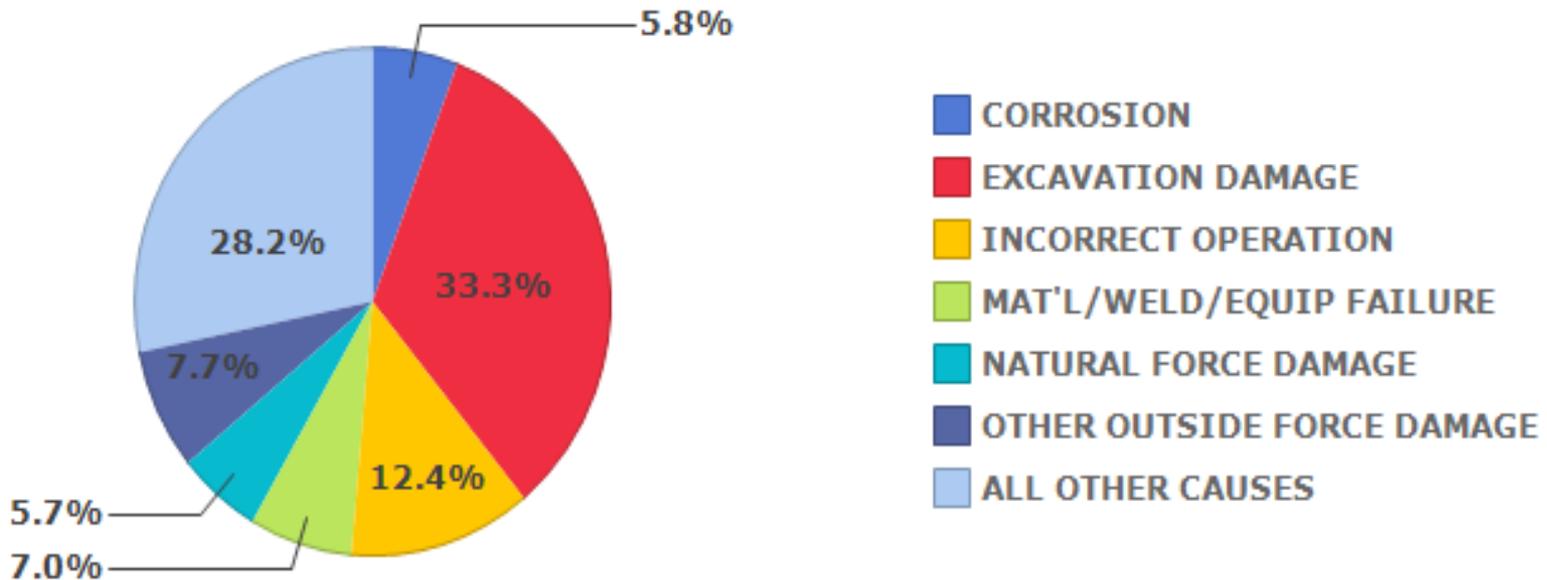
August 11 serves as a natural reminder about the need for everyone to use 811 when excavating





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

Serious Incident Cause Breakdown
National, All Pipeline Systems, 1993-2012



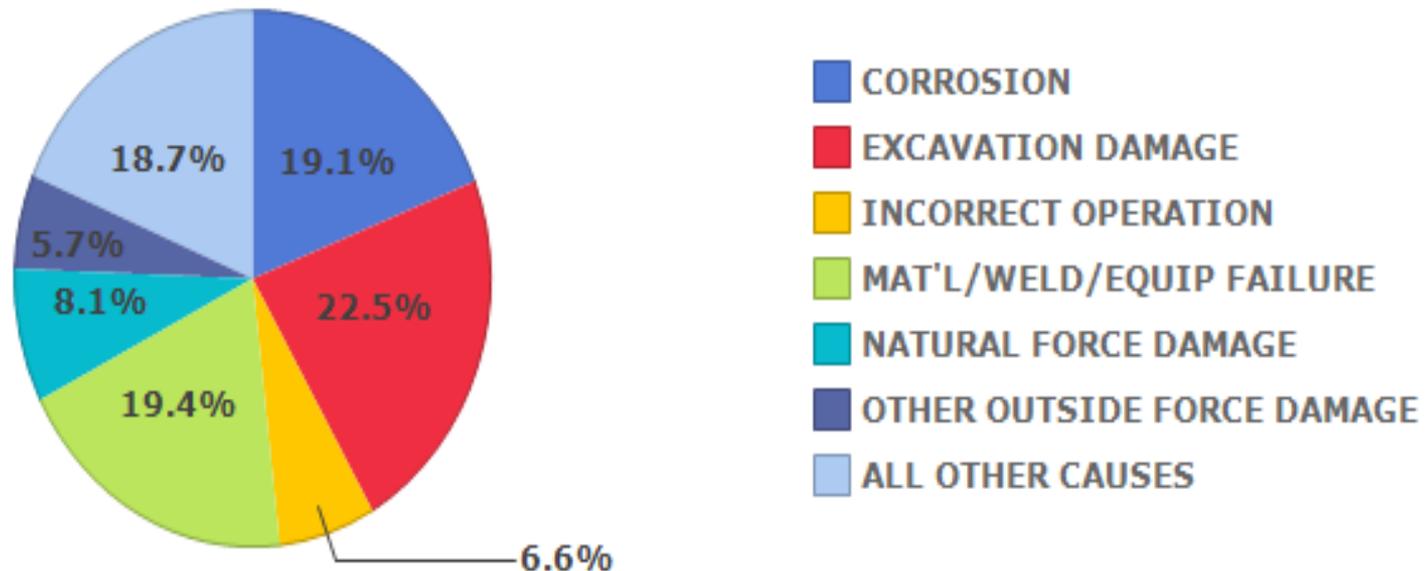
Source: PHMSA Significant Incidents Files, July 31, 2013





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

Significant Incident Cause Breakdown
National, All Pipeline Systems, 1993-2012



Source: PHMSA Significant Incidents Files, July 31, 2013





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices

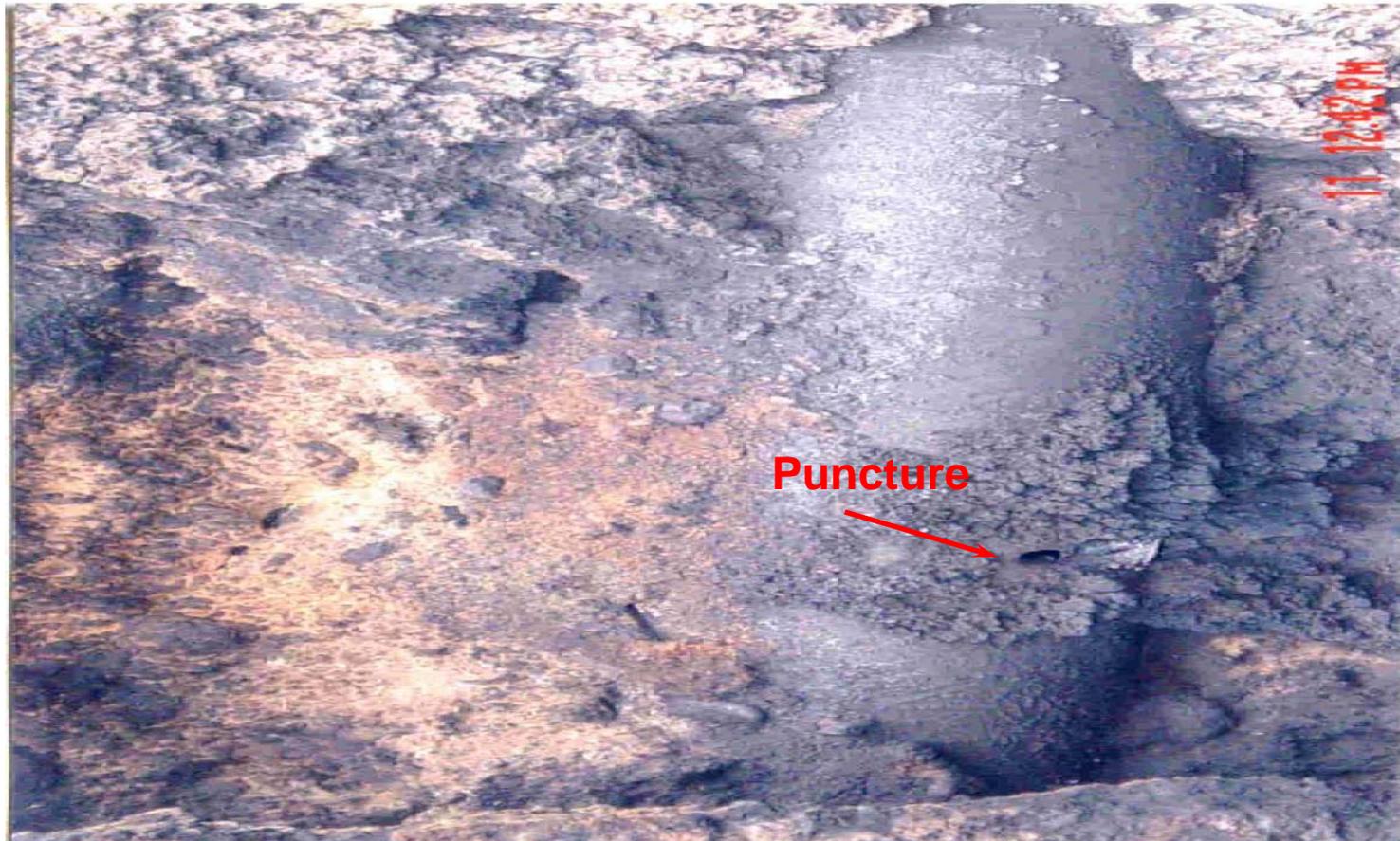


Near Madera – 8-inch Gas Line
August 2003





Consequences of Improper Excavation Practices



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

Photo Courtesy of CalOSHA





CPUC Supports Improved Enforcement Of GC 4216

- CPUC oversees at least 50% of the subsurface facilities in California:
 - gas lines,
 - electric facilities,
 - communications,
 - water, etc.
- Gas lines are frequently struck and present the greatest risk since gas can be flammable/explosive.
- CPUC should be added as enforcement agency to the current enforcement agencies included in GC 4216.6





CPUC Supports Improved Enforcement Of GC 4216

- Entities that can take actions against violators of GC 4216:
 - local permitting agencies,
 - district attorneys, or
 - California's Attorney General.
- Unfortunately, due to other workload and investigations, enforcement action against violators of GC 4216 is almost non-existent.
- USDOT – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration may begin enforcement actions in states that have weak One-Call enforcement programs.





CPUC Has Supported Legislation to Improve Enforcement Of GC 4216

- AB 1514 introduced in January 2012 by Assembly Member Lowenthal (D– Long Beach) did not make it through the legislative process;
- AB 811 introduced in February 2013, also by Assembly Member Lowenthal, no longer targets enforcement but is now generally a data collection bill;
- SED is working to send information on non-utility violators to current enforcement agencies per GC 4216;
- SED will continue working with all stakeholders to have proactive enforcement of GC 4216.





In Summary

- Currently, proactive enforcement of GC 4216 in California is nonexistent.
- Generally, no agency penalizes excavators who violate the one-call law, damage subsurface facilities often considering it as just cost of doing business.
- States neighboring California continue to have effective One-Call enforcement programs which encourage violators of one-call laws to improve their behavior.





In Summary

- Enforcement can highlight “near miss” incidents and work to decrease safety risk to workers and the public.
- Enforcement will reduce property damage, increase system reliability, and can result in lower utility rates.
- The CPUC would be the most suitable enforcement agency since more than 50% of subsurface facilities are currently jurisdictional to the CPUC.

