Damage Prevention

- Nationally, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline incidents.
- Pipeline incidents caused by excavation damage can result in fatalities and injuries, as well as significant costs, property damages, environmental damages, and unintentional fire or explosions.
- 49 CFR §192.614 Damage Prevention
  - Operators must have a Written Program to prevent damage to pipelines for excavation activities.
811 – One Call

- A mandated, nationwide process for avoiding excavation related damages to subsurface facilities (mainly utilities)
- The process includes facility owners, excavators, facility locators and One-Call Centers
- Process starts with excavators contacting One-Call Centers and providing them with information on intended excavations, such as:
  - **Scope of work and excavation method**
  - **Area where excavations will be performed**
  - **Date when work will start**
  - **Contact information for excavator representative(s), etc.**
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
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.
Standard Color Markings for USA Locates
California Government Code 4216

- California Government Code 4216 (GC 4216) governs and defines the One-Call process

- GC 4216 requires sub-surface facility owners to be members of their local One-Call Center

- Entities exempted from GC 4216:
  - Caltrans
  - Operators of non-pressurized sewers, drain lines, and storm drains
  - Owners of facilities located entirely on their property

- The One-Call process in California is free to the excavator
Consequences of Improper Practices

Near Madera – 8-inch Gas Line
August 2003
Consequences of Improper Practices

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

Photo Courtesy of CalOSHA
Consequences of Improper Practices

Fresno 2015
Damage Prevention

- SED Damage Prevention Expert – Sunil Shori
  - Specialized Damage Prevention Audits
  - Refining Damage Prevention Audit Procedure
  - Safety Promotion of 811
  - Participates in Damage Prevention portion of PHMSA Evaluations
  - Common Ground Alliance – task force
  - Participate in One-Call Center Meetings
  - Building out our efforts in 2019 and beyond
Enforcement Of Government Code Section 4216 (California’s One-Call Law)

- Entities that have historically had enforcement authority against violators of GC 4216, California’s One-Call Law, include:
  - Local permitting agencies,
  - District Attorneys, or
  - California’s Attorney General

- As a result, enforcement of GC 4216 has essentially been non-existent
Enforcement Of Government Code Section 4216 (California’s One-Call Law)

- PHMSA considers California’s One-Call Enforcement Inadequate;
- PHMSA has authority to enforce One-Call laws in inadequate states; and
- PHMSA has authority to reduce an inadequate state’s grant funding until state is deemed adequate through its evaluation.
In order to implement effective enforcement of GC 4216, in late 2016 Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 661, which:

- Modified C 4216
- Created a nine member California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board (Board),
- develop standards, coordinate excavation related education and outreach activities, and investigate possible violations of GC 4216
- Authorized the Board to make recommendations for graduated enforcement actions to agencies overseeing the offender’s activities
Enforcement Of Government Code
Section 4216 (California’s One-Call Law)

- The Board began operations in January 2018, and has:
  - Held eight meetings/workshops throughout the state to learn about excavation related issues;
  - Establishing operational procedures and drafting resolutions related to funding and timetables for inspections and enforcement actions beginning in 2019-2020
  - Program staffing
Dig Safe Board Activities

- Beginning accident investigations (Mar 2019)
- Creating a curriculum for remedial education of one-call law violators (Mar 2019)
- Developing regulations for dig-in notification requirements (Jan 2020)
- Developing a year-long ticket process for farmers (Jan 2020)
- Implementing AB 1914, to allow limited power tools (Jul 2020)
California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

Members Arden, Del Toro, Munoz, and Voss speak to farmers in Bakersfield
Enforcement Of Government Code Section 4216 (California’s One-Call Law)

- Sunil Shori, Damage Prevention SME from SED, continues to be the CPUC’s liaison with the Board

- On October 19, 2018, the CPUC formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Board which clarifies:
  - Roles and Responsibilities of both entities under the Dig Act of 2016
  - The investigative and Enforcement Process; and
  - Provides guidelines for information sharing between both entities
Enforcement Of Government Code
Section 4216 (California’s One-Call Law)

- CPUC has jurisdiction over many of the subsurface utility facilities in California including natural and propane gas, electric, communications, and investor-owned water and sewer.

- The Board’s processes will not alter the CPUC’s authority to continue investigating / enforcing reportable incidents submitted by its jurisdictional gas operators.
Summary

- **Damage Prevention / 811 – One Call** is an industry-wide process which works to prevent:
  - damage to subsurface facilities
  - loss of service, and most importantly
  - injuries or deaths which can result when facilities are struck or damaged

- CPUC continues to work cooperatively and effectively with the CUFSEB Board to help develop and implement their processes which will begin introducing true enforcement of GC 4216