

Town Hall December 14th, 2023, || 10:30 - 11:30 AM CST

What Are the Best Ways to Use Vacuum Excavation to Prevent Damage, Create Accurate Maps, and as a Part of SUE?

[10:39 AM] Noffsinger, Martin

We are doing a water service line inventory, do we need to call in locates in order to day our own utilities?

[10:41 AM] Jesse Torres

Yes, to follow the law in Texas any movement of earth requires a locate request. better to be safe than sorry

[10:41 AM] McConnell, Jacob

When in doubt, call 811!

[10:43 AM] Brenda Reigle

Future personal assessment question: Do you ever see a day when the 811 will be replaced by SUE and digital mapping?

Do you feel that 811 should be called for vacuum excavation work? And if yes, why.

[10:45 AM] Doug Beck

When can we hydro-evacuation processes where we can reuse the dirt in the hole and not bring in other soil for filling in the hole?

[10:46 AM] Doug Beck

For accurate data is new methods to locate utilities such as backscatter X-ray. When will we see better tech?

[10:46 AM] Brenda Reigle

Bob: ProStar Pointman digital GIS mapping system already does that from the field.

[10:46 AM] Tom Bottrell

What safety innovations is the industry looking at to make the trucks safer and to push the industry forward.

[10:47 AM] Marino, Tony@EnergySafety

Do you find that the additional encroachment permit (with traffic plan, etc.) serves as a deterrent for project owners to want vacuum excavation in advance of construction?

[10:48 AM] Jesse Torres

Brenda, follow the state law when it comes to locate request. In Texas yes everyone moving dirt must call 811

[10:48 AM] Bob Basques

[Brenda Reigle](#), we have a number of development partners that are able to record geo info from the field helping us out in the DEV.

[10:49 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

Jesse Torres

Brenda, follow the state law when it comes to locate request. In Texas yes everyone moving dirt must call 811

Same in TN

[10:49 AM] Brenda Reigle

Are you finding it difficult to find CDL drivers for your Vac Trucks?

[10:50 AM] Kemp Garcia (Guest)

yes, CDL drivers that work outside the truck is hard to find

[10:52 AM] Harry Fox

Pro and con of wet vs dry vac

[10:53 AM] Brenda Reigle

Can you add the link to the Gas Institute?

[10:53 AM] Olson, Glen

The arboriculture industry has used dry pneumatic soil excavation to expose tree roots without damage for years, but compliance with the relatively new OSHA silica exposure rules means wet excavation instead may be getting more interest.

[10:53 AM] Nate (Guest)

<https://www.gti.energy/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Keyhole-Vacuum-Excavation-Best-Practice-and-Guideline-Final-Jan2012.pdf>

[10:55 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

We have had good benefit growing our CDL drivers organically from our laborers. They come into the position with the expectation & understanding that they will have to get out of the truck.

[10:57 AM] Marino, Tony@EnergySafety

California is developing draft standards for potholing: <https://energysafety.ca.gov/underground-infrastructure-directorate/safety-standards-development/>

Safety Standards Development | Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
State of California

[10:57 AM] Brenda Reigle

Do VAC providers know what test pit requirements are necessary to be considered SUE Level A?

[10:57 AM] Taylor, Tracy

What was the website?

[10:58 AM] McConnell, Jacob

<https://www.safeexcavator.com/>

National Excavator Initiative

[10:58 AM] Brenda Reigle

From the contractor's perspective, mismarked and no marks at all led them to get Vac trucks.

[10:59 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

McConnell, Jacob <https://www.safeexcavator.com/>

A couple years ago, these guys were working with Mike Rowe for publicity & promotions.

[11:05 AM] Brenda Reigle

I suggest checking out ASCE 38-22 for the requirements for test pits SUE Level A. I believe it requires an engineer's stamp to qualify.

[11:05 AM] Brenda Reigle

<https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/society-news/article/2022/07/newly-updated-asce-38-22-utility-engineering-standard-and-new-companion-standard-asce-75-22-now-available>

Newly updated ASCE 38 22 utility engineering standard and new companion standard ASCE 75 22 now available

Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities, ASCE/UESI/CI 38-22 and its companion standard, Standard Guideline for Recording and Exchanging Utility Infrastructure Data, ...

[11:09 AM] Brenda Reigle

Bob: How accurate will the data be from a cell phone today? Contractors are looking for validated information.

[11:09 AM] Doug Beck

Air vac seems to be going away from Vermeer and Ditch Witch. Who will be making them?

[11:11 AM] Brenda Reigle

I remember when contractors laughed when I introduced them to Hydro Vacuum Excavation. Today, most contractors either have their own Vac trucks or hire a Vac truck service.

[11:12 AM] Marino, Tony@EnergySafety

Have you tried to provide GPS coordinates to the operators of facilities that you find? In California, facility owners often don't want to accept 3rd party coordinates (partly because of land surveyor laws).

[11:17 AM] McConnell, Jacob

Doug Beck (External) Air vac seems to be going away from Vermeer and Ditch Witch. Who will be making them?

TRUVAC!

[11:17 AM] Brenda Reigle

How do Vac ruck practitioners deal with abandoned lines you find?

[11:19 AM] Levi Mills

Brenda Reigle (External) How do Vac ruck practitioners deal with abandoned lines you find?

That's a lovely segue into next month's Town Hall topic! <https://excavationsafetyalliance.com/townhall>
ESA Town Halls

[11:22 AM] Brenda Reigle

Thank you all for the great information!

[11:23 AM] Brenda Reigle

Dustin, what a mess that will be in the future for contractors! Thanks for the heads up!

[11:24 AM] Brandon T (Guest)

Thanks to all the panelists...and to Ms. Brenda for her questions! This has been very educational.

[11:27 AM] Brenda Reigle

Well said, Bob! I completely agree with your vision for the future!

[11:27 AM] McConnell, Jacob

Thank you everyone, great discussion!!

[11:27 AM] Levi Mills

December 14 ESA Town Hall Survey

Please take a minute to complete the short Town Hall survey. This is the best way to recommend future topics!

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