

Between the Lines



Contractor Newsletter

FALL 2007/WINTER 2008

REGIONAL MEETINGS TO PROMOTE SAFETY

Over the past 10 years, JULIE, Inc. and its 1,725 members have hosted more than 200 excavator safety meetings reaching 50,000 contractors during the winter months. The complimentary safety breakfast presentations feature our Damage Prevention Managers highlighting a variety of important issues and topics, including the latest local, regional and national industry news.

During January and February 2008, 21 excavator safety meetings will once again be held across the state. One of the highlights of the new presentation will focus on the recent conversion from the OCARS Pro System to the Newtin locate request processing computer. This conversion has resulted in several new features and functionalities for damage prevention stakeholders in Illinois. In addition to an improved remote ticket entry interface for excavators (see related article) and quality analysis programs for staff, the new system offers helpful map tools for call center operators to pinpoint on or draw a polygon around a jobsite.

"These regional meetings bring together hundreds of people at each location to discuss the latest issues and challenges," said Kevin Chmura, director of public relations at JULIE, Inc. "The key to any successful partnership with multiple stakeholders is communications. These safety meetings offer representatives from member utilities and contractors a forum to learn more about the damage prevention process and express their views."

Prior to each meeting, contractors have an opportunity to gather information and visit with member representatives at various display booths along with representatives from OSHA and the State of Illinois Onsite Safety and Health Consultation Program.



With an annual call volume over 1.2 million, JULIE, Inc. is proactively involved in a variety of public and member education and safety programs aimed at increasing the use of the one-call system and reducing damages through increased awareness of excavation dangers.

Registration Required

Open registration begins on-line at www.illinois1call.com in November. There is no charge for members and contractors to attend any of the meetings—preregistration is required and no walk-in attendees are accepted. Our not-for-profit organization must pay for all "no-show" meals, so it is important to notify JULIE a few days in advance if you are unable to attend a meeting.

Due to the positive response and limited space at most venues, registration is limited to four people per company. An informational mailing with additional details will also be sent this fall. If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact Diana Totte, public relations assistant, at 815-741-5673.

If you have a conflict with a meeting date in your area or would like to reach more than four people within your company, JULIE's Damage Prevention Managers (formerly referred to as Field Liaisons) are available throughout the year to answer questions about the one-call process and conduct safety presentations at your facility to meet your specific needs. Contact information is available at www.illinois1call.com or 815-741-5000.

2008 Meeting Schedule

January	February
9 Decatur	1 Rockford
10 Mundelein	6 Streamwood
11 Urbana	7 Alton
16 Lisle	8 Collinsville
17 Olney	12 Kankakee
18 LaSalle	15 Springfield
23 Alsip	20 East Peoria
24 Marion	22 Moline
25 Quincy	27 Joliet
30 Rock Falls	29 Effingham
31 Mt. Vernon	

Quick Digs

Annual Meeting Highlights Accomplishments

During the organization's annual meeting earlier this year, JULIE Board President Tom Stutzman of ComEd and Executive Director Mark Frost discussed the strategic plan objectives and highlighted the major accomplishments over the past year.



During comments to more than 100 attendees at the meeting in Lisle, the following accomplishments were reviewed:

- During the past 10 years, the number of locate requests to JULIE, Inc. has increased over 70 percent in the state of Illinois. Since 1974, JULIE has logged over 18 million calls.
- New members continue to join JULIE, from electric cooperatives to school districts. More than 1,725 owners and operators of underground facilities are now partners with the Illinois One-Call System.

JULIE, Inc. Executive Director Mark Frost provides an overview to attendees.

- A new ticket taking application which includes GIS map tools was implemented to assist in more accurately identifying excavation jobsites. Call center operators participated in a comprehensive training program.
- The popularity of Remote Ticket Entry continues to increase. Almost four out of 10 locate requests last year were entered directly into the JULIE system by excavators.
- JULIE's management team has the best talent from across the nation. In recent months, two new managers with extensive expertise in their respective fields joined the team and two managers were recognized with national industry awards.
- The addition of 811 to our existing one-call center number is a reality.

For more information about upcoming events and activities, please visit our Web site.

Rodeo Showcases Skills

More than 30 utility locators tested their skills at the Second Annual Midwest Regional Utility Locate Rodeo presented by JULIE, Inc. The successful event was held at the Planet Underground in Manteno, Illinois.

The locate rodeo included four separate divisional events: electric, gas, telecommunications and water, plus a challenging bonus event. The competition was timed with each individual competitor having 12 minutes to complete an event and three minutes to complete the bonus event.



This event would not have been possible without the support of the JULIE Board and staff, participants, volunteers and sponsors, including Trench-It, SM&P Utility Resources, Inc., Staking University, Ridgid, Enbridge, TBE Group, Laverdiere Construction, Ameren, Central Locating Service, Ltd., Gopher State One Call, SafetyComm Solutions, BP and Consolidated Utility Services, Inc. For a list of winners, visit www.illinois1call.com.



Locators from across the Midwest participated in the successful locate rodeo event.

Damage Prevention Managers Provide Answers & Education

JULIE's Damage Prevention Managers - **Dave Van Wy, Dale Kuhn and Ray Muhs** – are available to present safety seminars and answer your questions regarding the state law, JULIE policies and other issues.

In addition to conducting excavator safety meetings throughout the state and representing JULIE at conferences, conventions, trade shows and meetings, Dave, Dale and Ray are available for safety presentations at your facility or work site.

For more information, or if you have any questions about JULIE and its initiatives, call the appropriate Damage Prevention Manager listed below:



Northern Region

David Van Wy
Office: 847-963-0387
Cell: 815-351-5002
E-mail: vanwy@illinois1call.com

Central Region

Dale Kuhn
Office: 217-698-0813
Cell: 217-725-0904
E-mail: kuhn@illinois1call.com

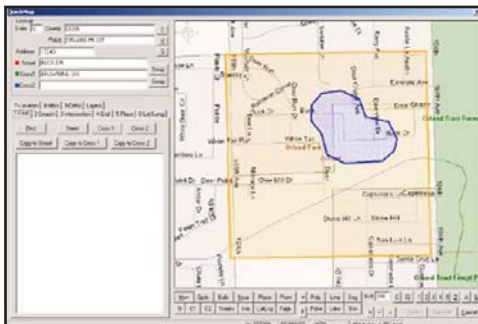
Southern Region

Raymond Muhs
Office: 618-662-2118
Cell: 618-843-2513
E-mail: muhs@illinois1call.com

New Feature Improves Process

Earlier this year, JULIE, Inc. announced the release of a new, enhanced method for excavators to enter locate requests called Newtin Remote Ticket Entry (RTE). Newtin RTE provides all the functionality that currently exists in OCARS WRTE, plus new features that allow the viewing of a map on which a dig site can be identified to improve the locate request process.

"Remote Ticket Entry is the fastest growing segment of total locates for contractors and utility members. More than 35 percent of the locate request tickets are now entered directly by professional excavators," said Director of Computer Operations Greg Fisch. "It is a free of charge, unique and convenient feature that allows excavators to enter their locate requests directly into the JULIE system."



Sample illustration of a polygon around a jobsite.

Additional benefits of using the improved program include the following:

- Print your locate request ticket information for the job folder.
 - The state law requires a survey of the job site to make sure address and extent are correct.
- Provide your employees in the field with a list of members contacted for the locate request.
 - No need to quickly write down the member company names.
 - Member company names can be compared to flags and marks at the work site.
 - A complete member list, by county, is conveniently located on the JULIE Web site for comparison purposes.
- Retain your locate request ticket as proof of your call.
 - Ticket available on site in case of damage to facilities.
 - No confusion about what information was requested on the locate request ticket.
- Drop down screens for street names to assist in proper spelling.
- Gain access to previous locate requests submitted by your company.

Both new users and excavators interested in continuing to enter locates using the new method require a 90 minute training session. For more information or to schedule a free training session during the fall or winter, contact the JULIE Data Department at 815-741-5011 or call a JULIE Damage Prevention Manager directly (see related article).

Who Are You Going To Call?

Several member utility companies in Illinois have created Damage Prevention Teams to answer questions and assist excavators with problems or concerns that may arise during their digging projects. After following proper procedures and making the initial call to JULIE, excavators can now contact the

Damage Prevention Teams with specific issues regarding that specific buried facility.

For a contact list of available member companies, please visit www.illinois1call.com, under the "Support" section.

Save Time & White Line

Prior to making the call to JULIE, there is a simple way to ensure that your locate requests are marked correctly. When the excavation site can not be clearly and adequately identified on the locate ticket, JULIE recommends that the excavator designate the route and/or area to be excavated using white pre-marking (white paint, flags, stakes or a combination of these methods) prior to the call to JULIE and the arrival of the member company locator. This is also a Best Practice recommended by the Common Ground Alliance.

For example, during the month of September, more than 25 percent of the new locate requests processed through the JULIE system indicated that the area of excavation was pre-marked prior to the request. Through this practice, excavators helped improve the quality of the process on more than 26,680 requests during a single month by asking the facility locator to mark only those lines that are physically in conflict with the work scheduled to be performed in the area. This is a five percent increase from only two years ago.

"It is important to note that white lining a job site will take precedence over information on a locate request ticket," said Dave Van Wy, JULIE Damage Prevention Manager.

There are many benefits to pre-marking the site, including the following:

- Saves time for everyone involved in the process.
- Allows the locator to provide higher quality markings in a limited, but adequate area.
- Prevents damages by avoiding excavation outside the pre-marked area.
- Reduces graffiti, a common concern in many municipalities.
- Requires fewer joint meets.

To assist in the process, please follow a few specific guidelines when pre-marking the site:

- Pre-mark prior to notifying JULIE.
- Use dashes, lines or arrows to indicate excavation area.
- Mark the center line of the planned excavation.
- Pre-mark 10' past what you need (in case the projects needs to be moved because of too many conflicts with buried facilities).

White lining can make a difference. A 1997 safety study by the NTSB reached the conclusion that pre-marking is a practice that helps prevent excavation damage. In fact, Maine was one of the first states to have mandatory pre-marking for non-emergency excavations.

Using other colors at the dig site

One issue of concern is the color that some companies are using to pre-mark the site. According to the Illinois Underground Utilities Facilities Damage Prevention Act, excavators are to use safety white (black when snow is on the ground) to mark their

proposed excavation. Unfortunately, some contractors and utilities cause confusion by using red, yellow, orange, blue and other colors to pre-mark at the work site.

"Excavators occasionally use a color that may be handy to pre-mark, but may not realize that the same color is used by member utilities in response to a locate request," said JULIE's Damage Prevention Manager Dale Kuhn. "Using a pre-mark color other than white causes confusion and related problems at the dig site."

For additional information about pre-marking your site, contact the Damage Prevention Manager in your area.



In the Field

JULIE, Inc., along with representatives from the Northern/Central Illinois (NIPA) and Southern Illinois Pipeline Associations (SIPA), the CGA and several one-call centers in the Midwest, participated in the annual Farm Progress Show in Decatur.

"We were proud to be a part of the Farm Progress Show and welcomed the opportunity to strengthen our partnership with farmers in Illinois," said Ray Muhs, JULIE Damage Prevention Manager. "This was truly a team effort. Our members and various entities came together to work toward achieving a common goal--promoting safety."

The annual event, held in August, is the largest outdoor farm show in the country.



Thousands of attendees visited the damage prevention tent at the Farm Progress Show.

Calling JULIE As Easy As 811



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

Since the national launch of a new "Call Before You Dig" phone number in the spring, approximately 20 percent of JULIE's call volume is generated from professional excavators and homeowners directly dialing 811.

"Knowing where utility lines are buried before each digging project helps protect those who dig from injury, expense and penalties," said Mark Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "The 811 number is especially beneficial to people who are working near our service boundaries and are not sure which one-call center they should contact."

In addition to JULIE's existing telephone number (800-892-0123), 811 is a new FCC-designated national N-11 number that assists excavators with reaching the one-call center. This quick and efficient one-call service notifies the appropriate member utilities, who then send locators or locate technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines.

Free Campaign Materials Available

Get ready now and have safety materials on hand before the busy dig season starts next year. JULIE's outreach and campaign materials have an exciting, new look highlighting the "Call Before You Dig" safety message. For copies of free education materials with the JULIE safety message and phone number to complement outreach efforts to your employees and customers, please visit www.illinois1call.com or call 815-741-5000.



AT&T Creates Marking Standards For Cable Locating

AT&T recently announced that the company has created and agreed upon marking standards for AT&T cable locating across the nation.

With current AT&T branding campaigns, the Cable Marking and Standards core team has determined the need to standardize markings that will identify AT&T Local Service and AT&T Long Distance as separate AT&T entities for excavators. The effective date is December 1, 2007.



Today, AT&T Long Distance markings are identified with "ATT". Multiple near miss incidents have been documented due to contractor confusion with this current marking system. When "AT&T" is shown as marked at the dig site, many contractors assume that all AT&T facilities are marked at the same time.

The AT&T markings will be identified as such:

- **Long Distance** - ATT/T (Transmission)
- **Distribution** - ATT/D (Distribution)
- **Fiber** - ATT/T FO (ATT Transmission Fiber Optics) and ATT/D FO (ATT Distribution Fiber Optics)

Note: Fiber will only be marked in states that legally require fiber be marked.

The use of D (Distribution), T (Transmission) and FO (Fiber Optic) follows industry standards established by the Common Ground Alliance. For more information and questions about AT&T marking standards, please call 1-800-894-0374, Option 2, to reach Dave Conover (south of I-80, plus Rockford, Galena and the Quad Cities) or Sharon Tiljak (Chicago and the Collar Counties north of I-80).



**3275 Executive Drive
Joliet, IL 60431**

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Between the Lines is published by the JULIE Public Relations Department. The contents in this publication are for informational purposes only.

Comments and story ideas should be directed to Kevin Chmura, editor, at 815-741-5000 or chmura@illinois1call.com.

To receive this publication via e-mail, please visit www.illinois1call.com. Designed by Gammon Group.



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Always Open

JULIE's Web site (www.illinois1call.com) continues to serve as an excellent resource for members and excavators seeking more information about the system and safe digging practices around the clock.

Other highlights on the Web site include:

- Utility Company Contact List
- Copy of the State Law
- ICC Enforcement Process Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Board and Staff Directory
- Upcoming Events and Activities
- Free Education Materials

Spread the Word!

Are you looking for a way to share this publication with your coworkers? Spread the news and sign up today at www.illinois1call.com. For more information, call Barb Huff at 815-741-5936.



ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One of the keys to any successful project is planning ahead. Recent enforcement statistics provided by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) indicate that "No valid JULIE Ticket" is the most common type of incident report submitted by utilities.

Illinois law requires anyone digging to call JULIE, Inc. at least two working days prior to the start of excavation and to begin that project within 14 calendar days from the call. The 48-hour notice does not include Saturday, Sunday or holidays.

There is no reason to take a chance. Call center operators at JULIE, Inc. are

available 24 hours a day; seven days a week to assist with the quick and easy locate request process. The busiest day of the week to call JULIE is Monday. There are also other options available, including Fax-a-Locate (72-hour process) or Newtin Remote Ticket Entry.

For more information about any of these methods and the ICC's Enforcement Program, visit www.illinois1call.com.

