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Safety Measures for Reducing Asset Strikes

Abstract:

Protecting Italy's infrastructure is vital to protecting public safety. When underground utilities are damaged, they can cause significant damage, injury, and even death. In the US, Common Ground Alliance's Annual DIRT Report found 20.3% of damages to buried utilities were a result of "notification not made" with the largest impact damaging telecommunications lines (46.6%) and natural gas lines (26.6%). Permanent markers, identifying approximate locations of pipelines and instructing people of what lies beneath can reduce these damages. Damages to utilities come with financial and societal costs; not only to facility owners but also the communities they serve. The cost of a single damage is viewed through different lenses: repairs, customer compensation, lost revenue, and societal costs. Examples of potentially avoidable detrimental injuries and lives lost are plentiful. Common Ground Alliance, Canadian Common Ground Alliance, and Dial Before You Dig have developed data collection and reporting tools designed to build a comprehensive picture in relation to damage incidents association with excavation activities. Understanding the complex environment and implementing consistent safety measures across all industries is imperative. Permanent markers, a communication system which identifies approximate locations of buried infrastructure alerting individuals can reduce these damages. Critical elements for an effective permanent marking system include visibility, durability, and functionality; ensuring you have the right marker for the environment. We will discuss key points to consider when establishing a permanent marking system while allowing companies with a permanent marking system in place to 'grade' their system. Using a Permanent Marking Report Card, features such as maintenance, effectiveness for environment, emergency contact numbers included in the warning message, among other features are covered. Using historic information from the United States, "locate not sufficient" and "no locate being done" highlight the need for improved communication. Permanent marking systems are undeniably effective communication tools. Dialogue around the reality of damages across industries is necessary; continuing education is critical. Clearly marking your assets build awareness of responsibilities for those outside of the stakeholder audience. Collaboration and partnership across industries promotes awareness, education and has the potential to decrease incidents. How many challenges do you have that: never go away, become increasingly more complex, or could result in significant property damage or loss of life? This problem can be dramatically reduced through education and communication.