



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Damage Prevention Board

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Draft Minutes of 01/16/2025

Board Members Present:	Stephen Boorman, Chair Julie Maki, Vice-Chair Jerry Piper Jeff Brooks Evan Powers Merril Quayle Sean Courtright Scott Spears Michael Kimmel	Division Staff:	Amy Lorenzo, Executive Officer Gus Tate, Legal Counsel Renee Bryant, Board Support Supv. Amanda Lee, Board Support Specialist Tara Hinderliter, Tech. Records Spec. 2 Jeannien DeWitt, Educ./Trng. Spec. Jeana Graft, Human Resource Specialist
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Board Members Absent: Curtis Reno

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM MT by Chair Stephen Boorman.

APPROVAL OF 09/19/2024 MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 09/19/2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Legislative Session Update: Executive Officer (EO) Amy Lorenzo will present the proposed changes to IDAPA 24.39.90 - Rules of the Damage Prevention Board as determined during Zero-Based Regulations (ZBR) to the House Business Committee. The presentation is tentatively scheduled for next Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 1:30 PM. EO Lorenzo also briefly explained the process the committees go through to pass the legislation.

Data/DIRT Report Analysis: The 2024 Common Ground Alliance (CGA) DIRT Report was presented to the Board by Education and Training Specialist (ETS) Jeannien DeWitt. The report included detailed breakdowns of reported damage by Facility Type, Excavator Type, and Root Cause. Natural Gas remained the Facility Type with the highest number of reported damages. Among the 1,166 reports categorized by Contractor Excavator Type, Telecommunications work had the most damage reports, followed by Electric and Water.

The Board discussed potential factors contributing to the total number of reported damages. One concern raised was the difficulty out-of-state contractors might face in adhering to Idaho's standards, which could be leading to an increase in Telecommunication-related damages. Vice-Chair Julie Maki proposed offering educational courses for companies employing contractors from outside of

Idaho could help address these gaps.

Another possible issue could be the limited availability of educational courses in Spanish. Board Member Merrill Quayle volunteered to develop a short training course in Spanish for the upcoming Idaho Falls Uniform Commercial Code breakfast and to share the results and feedback with the Board at the next meeting. Additionally, ETS DeWitt will explore the cost of translating current e-learning courses.

Notice of Violation (NOV) Activity Report: Technical Records Specialist Tara Hinderliter presented the NOV Activity Report. The Board discussed the high number of "Failure to Locate" offenses and their implications for both Utilities and Contractors. While the overall number of damage reports remains high, the volume of complaints has significantly decreased. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses has been working to streamline the complaint process in hopes of addressing and realigning these discrepancies.

BOARD BUSINESS

Education Working Group Update: ETS DeWitt gave a presentation on education and outreach, providing a summary of events and resources from 2024, as well as upcoming outreach plans for 2025. She also proposed several topics for both professionals and homeowners to be developed into e-learning courses. Additionally, ETS DeWitt shared that she will be attending the 2025 CGA Conference and will be looking for additional educational topics for 2025 while there.

Safe Digging Month Conference: The 2025 Damage Prevention Conference is scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025, from 7:00 am to 3:00pm at the Chinden Campus Conference Center in Building six. Board Member Jerry Piper suggested that traffic control for contractors be included as a topic for discussion and education at the upcoming Conference. Additionally, Chairman Boorman expressed interest in having Idaho Power participate by setting up a safety booth at the event.

Potential Legislative Ideas for 2026: The following were ideas presented by the Board for discussion regarding updating legislation:

- Reducing the Tolerance Zone from 24" to 18"
- Defining requirements of underground facilities within public right-of-way
- Defining white lining and requirements on how to be marked out for locators
- Use of GPS for locators
- Board's ability to initiate contested cases (violations)
- Board's ability to report repeat violation to other DOPL licensing boards for review of licensure

Spring Training for April: There will be an opportunity for the public as well as the Board to present education material at the April 17, 2025, Damage Prevention Board Meeting.

Public Comment: Jeff Laugh of Veolia requested that the Board consider amending legislation to clarify that using different colors for white lining is prohibited, as this has been causing issues within the industry. He also expressed concerns about the low turnout from industry representatives at the

Board Meetings. In response, Board Member Piper suggested utilizing CGA to help spread the word and increase attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

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