

# Roundtable Session Topics

## Session 1:

### ***Improving the 811 System-Ideas for Change***

There haven't been many major changes to the 811 laws in the last decade. It seems like contractors have many ideas for new changes that could be implemented, simply because they're the people experiencing the challenges on a day-to-day basis. Whether they be things that hold them back from getting work done on time, or ideas that could speed up the process for everyone. Based on your experience in the field, do you have any ideas that could improve the 811 system that should or could be taken into consideration?



## Session 2:

### ***Skin in The Game for Utilities - Accountability, Ticket Overload, Updating Maps***

Utilities own the assets in which the industry revolves around, and in the past they used to do all of the work that they now sub out. Today, some utility owners don't have much consideration for the entities who work to install and maintain their assets. This is evident through ticket overload from fiber companies, utilities not updating their maps/data to the contractor, and an overall lack of accountability when they contribute to their own contractor's down time. Most 811 Board of Directors have minimal contractor representation, but they have the lobbying power to change the industry. How do we get them to listen to other stakeholders' ideas and solutions that will ultimately help everyone? ROI using new technology, SUE? Is it incompetence, or are they unwilling to change for other reasons?

## Session 3:

### ***Cities and Municipalities - Educating & Preparing for Big Projects***

Utility companies, SUE, contract locators and excavators can have an organized game plan for a large project, but when construction starts, all of that can go out the window because locating resources are inadequate to accomplish the scope of the project. On another note, many of the major explosions over the past decade have ultimately resulted in cities that do not have an active right-of-way oversight program. What can the industry do to educate cities on contingencies that can occur on major projects so they are better prepared? What about a pilot program from cities that do understand and have excellent results? Some only learn after a deadly explosion happens.

## Session 4:

### ***Fines & Laws for Contractors - Not Enough or Overkill?***

We have heard many stories of contractors deliberately boring through communication or electric lines because the fines cost less money than what they would lose on downtime waiting for new 811 marks. At the same time, some states enforce the damage law in an uneven manner creating burdens on the contractor that ultimately cause them to lose money. Everyone in this industry must advocate for safety and damage prevention, but is there a way to meet in the middle?

## Session 5:

### ***New Technology for Damage Prevention***

There is a big buzz about AI, robotics, and so much other new tech that is supposed to increase efficiency for everyone in the industry. Whether it's through 811 ticket management software, EM locators/GPR units, digital mapping solutions, or digging equipment, we have some new tools we've never had before. It seems this new technology should make work more efficient for everyone. But will this technology be adopted by the facility owners, and if not, is there any way it can assist the contractor to avoid damages?

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