

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 23, 2015
FROM:	EDWARD SOLDI, P. ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION
SUBJECT:	2015 DIG SAFE CAMPAIGN

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Roads and Transportation, the following information report concerning the 2015 Dig Safe Campaign **BE RECEIVED** for information.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

The City of London has a network of underground infrastructure that includes water, wastewater, street lighting and traffic signal assets that have a replacement value of over \$6.5 billion. In addition, an underground network of gas line, telephone, electricity and cable TV wires are maintained by various utility companies.

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with an overview of the various initiatives that exist in order to protect this vast infrastructure network within the City and to promote the annual Dig Safe Campaign.

DISCUSSION

Context

April 1 marks the official start of Dig Safe Month. The Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) and its stakeholders have designated April as the annual Dig Safe Month in Ontario. The month is dedicated to improving safety and reducing damages to underground facilities by raising awareness of safe digging practices through local events across the province.



The City of London is working with the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) to promote awareness of the hazards of underground construction in order to ensure the safety of those who work in the vicinity of underground facilities and to protect the use of these services.

City of London Practices

The management of health and safety is paramount to the wellness of our employees and to the citizens of the community. The City has a Health and Safety Program that implemented the policies, programs and procedures to ensure our workplace remains safe and complies with applicable legislation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The following are initiatives and measures that City of London work crews participate in to actively work towards lowering the risks associated with excavation:

- **Excavation safety training and safe working procedures:** The City of London has several safe working procedures that outline the requirements for managers, supervisors, and workers when excavating. These procedures are aligned with best

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practices and legislative requirements. Employees are provided with regular training and on-going education on the risks and controls for excavating and trenching.

- **Tailgate Meetings:** each morning before beginning work for the day, the excavation crew comes together to review safety precautions, outline hazards, and review job plans for the day. This provides a team an opportunity to coordinate their activities and assess the site daily as conditions may change.
- **Construction Kick Off Day:** this annual event every spring brings together the Water and Sewer Operations divisions to provide them with an update on Ministry of Labour initiatives, safety precautions, and new developments or technology in the water and sewer field.
- **Monthly Safety Talks:** each supervisor has a safety meeting every month with their employees to review important safety topics and events pertinent to their work. This provides another opportunity to address concerns and reiterate safety precautions to the crews.

Dig Safe Month

ORCGA is a member driven association of 475 member organizations that is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices.



Contact your one call centre at least one week before starting your project to ensure locates are completed on time.

“Dig Safe Month” is designed to coincide with the unofficial start of the spring digging season. It serves as a reminder to homeowners and contractors that they need to call before they start digging. The 2015 Dig Safe Campaign will kick off on April 1st 2015 at 10:00 am across the province and the ORCGA will be hosting a media event at City Hall in London where various sponsors and volunteers from the damage prevention industry will be highlighting the need for safe practices when dealing with underground utilities.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with assistance from Chantel Da Silva, Manager Corporate Health and Safety and Pat Tiller, Supervisor of Operations, Road and Transportation.

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