



Mission Statement

Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving workforce and public safety and the integrity of vital buried infrastructure. GSS believes that greater transparency in all aspects of damage prevention among buried-asset operators, locators and contractors is essential to drive continuous improvement, and vital to ensure increasingly safe working conditions and communities. The Website is WWW.GoldShovelStandard.org.

Vision Statement

Gold Shovel Standard has a vision of a safer North America. GSS seeks to create an environment where all excavators demonstrate exemplary caution around buried infrastructure, all locators demonstrate top-tier performance in locating buried infrastructure, and where both can be recognized and rewarded for their superior performance.

Gold Shovel Standard Goals

- 50% reduction over 2015 levels in the frequency of damages in North America on professional excavation sites by the end of 2025
- More than half of North American municipalities rely on GSS metrics when hiring, establishing or renewing franchise rights and offering permits by the end of 2025
- More than 100 Gold Shovel Standard Communities have been established throughout North America by the end of 2025
- More than 75% of insurance companies consider GSS metrics on policies for excavators or locators by the end of 2025

Supporting Points

- The complex one-call process relies on all participants -- one-call centers, owner / operators, locators and contractors -- to perform effectively. There is wide variability within peer groups in their effective performance of this complex process, but little transparency about that variability.
- GSS believes there must be greater clarity in damage prevention performance; transparency in damage prevention is critical to driving continuous improvement.
- Continuous improvement to help ensure safety and the protection of buried assets is the shared responsibility of owner/operators, locators and contractors.
- GSS believes that further significant reduction in damages is limited unless all responsible parties (owner/operators, locators, and contractors) continuously improve, and measurements underpin continuous improvement.

- Fair and transparent metrics are a very effective and underutilized means of driving continuous improvement.
- GSS is driving the creation of broadly deployed damage prevention metrics (for owner/operators, locators, and contractors) as a key ingredient to a dramatic increase in public safety.
- GSS-certification is a proactive indication of an increased investment in damage-prevention to drive safety, reduce damages, and minimize the risks associated with excavating on or around buried assets.
- GSS believes that every excavator, owner excavators and contractors alike, must rely upon a robust safety management system, which specifically incorporates damage prevention to increase public and workforce safety.

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