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## **GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD COMMEMORATES 8/11 DAY BY WORKING WITH MICHIGAN MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE GSS COMMUNITIES**

*Utilities Companies and Municipalities Across Michigan Work to Increase Public and Workplace Safety and Advance Standardized Metrics for Damage Prevention Performance*

AUGUST 15, 2017, Santa Ana, CA – Gold Shovel Standard (GSS), is a nonprofit advocacy group led by key stakeholders dedicated to public and workforce safety at excavation sites by certifying safe work practices and providing metrics for damage prevention performance, celebrates National Safe Digging Day by highlighting efforts to help municipalities throughout Michigan establish Gold Shovel Standard communities. GSS has partnered with MISS DIG 811 to gather a diverse committee of excavators, asset owners and municipalities for this effort.

Gold Shovel Standard has already become a permanent fixture in much of North America as industry has rapidly embraced this ambitious program. The rate of adoption has dramatically increased since its implementation, and numbers of new members and participants are expanding at a healthy rate. Notably, GSS has been embraced by some of the largest telecom companies, gas and electric utilities, pipeline operators and a variety of municipalities.

“Avoidable damages to Michigan’s buried assets provide a significant drain on the state’s ability to compete,” said Dave Mauerman, of Gold Shovel Standard. “GSS-certified communities are not only safer, but offer a more competitive workspace that includes fewer outages, less business interruptions, and greater service reliability.”

“Statewide adoption of Gold Shovel Standard will allow for the seamless connection between existing Michigan damage prevention programs,” said Bruce Campbell, CEO of MISS DIG System. “The Great Lakes Gold Shovel Foundation is ensuring program uniformity throughout the state to minimize the burden placed on Michigan contractors.”

Those leading this effort include:

- Barton Malow
- Consumers Energy
- Corby Energy Services
- Dan’s Excavating
- DTE Gas
- Frontier Communications
- Genesee County Drain Commission
- Holland BPW
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC)

- SEMCO Energy
- Tri County MECA
- Zito Construction

This announcement follows the observation of National Safe Digging Day (also known as 8/11 Day). National 811 Day is observed each year on August 11. August 11 is a convenient way to remind professional excavators as well as homeowners of the importance of always calling 811 before digging. 811 is a free, FCC-designated national one-call number that connects a caller from anywhere in the country to the appropriate local one-call center.

### **About Gold Shovel Standard**

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 Web site is [www.GoldShovelStandard.org](http://www.GoldShovelStandard.org)

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