Creation of Dig-Safe Education

With TAG Grant assistance from PHMSA
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How did Dig Safe come about?

Spoke with private utility owners about having a uniform “base-level” training for excavators that provide them digging services.
The private utilities said they would be interested in promoting some safe digging standards and suggested we incorporate elements of the 811 “Dig-Law” into that training.

Currently, no formal training or licensing is required to excavate within public rights-of-ways, or easements.

NUCA recognized an industry need to provide basic training to excavators and worked up a potential solution- “DIG-SAFE” education and training.
NUCA was already training its members in safe-digging practices, so why not offer this same type of training to non-members, with an emphasis on the new 811 law changes.

The stars seemed to “line-up” so the timing was right.
NUCA of Washington needed additional funding to create, promote, and implement this program throughout the industry.

TAG Grant seemed “good-fit” to assist in getting the concept to reality.
PHMSA/TAG awarded Nuca of Washington $50,000 to create and promote “Dig-Safe” education and training. NUCA may be eligible for another $50,000 next year if we successfully continue with the training.

NUCA currently offers training all over the State about once or twice per month depending on demand.
To date, NUCA has trained over 350 people with the Dig-Safe materials. The typical cost is around $90 per person. That cost reimburses NUCA for the trainers time, administrative expenses, training books, and forms as well as the “Hit-Kits” that are provided to each trainee.

The training is good for 2 years, so refresher courses will be available to address any industry or law changes as they are developed or implemented.