



TxDOT ROW

UTILITY WEEK

THE POWER OF YOU - Delivering Right-Of-Way Solutions to Texas

Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention

Atmos Energy

Day 3 – 8:45am-9:45am

12/14/2023





Mike Blalock is a Compliance Supervisor with Atmos, with over 18 years of experience in Damage Prevention. I lead a group that is the first line of defense to prevent damages to Atmos Energy infrastructure. Work closely with excavators and municipalities to resolve locate any infrastructure issues.



Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention

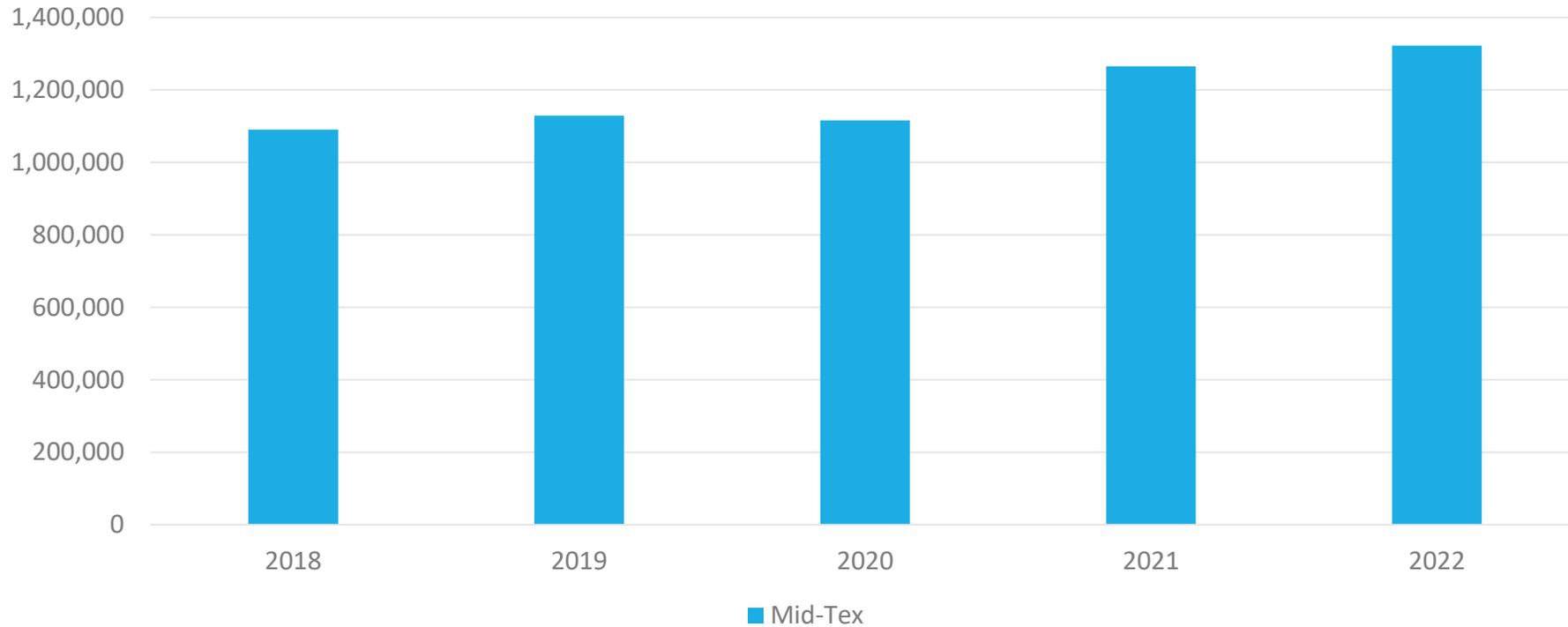
August 2023





Increased Line Locate Tickets

Atmos Energy Line Locate Tickets



Efforts to Reduce Damages

We partner with Texas 811 to provide safe digging education and awareness to cities and other class A operators.

We attend Damage Prevention Council meetings across the state to increase excavator outreach.

We provide Damage Investigation Training for 3rd Party Excavators.

We distribute literature about safe digging practices.

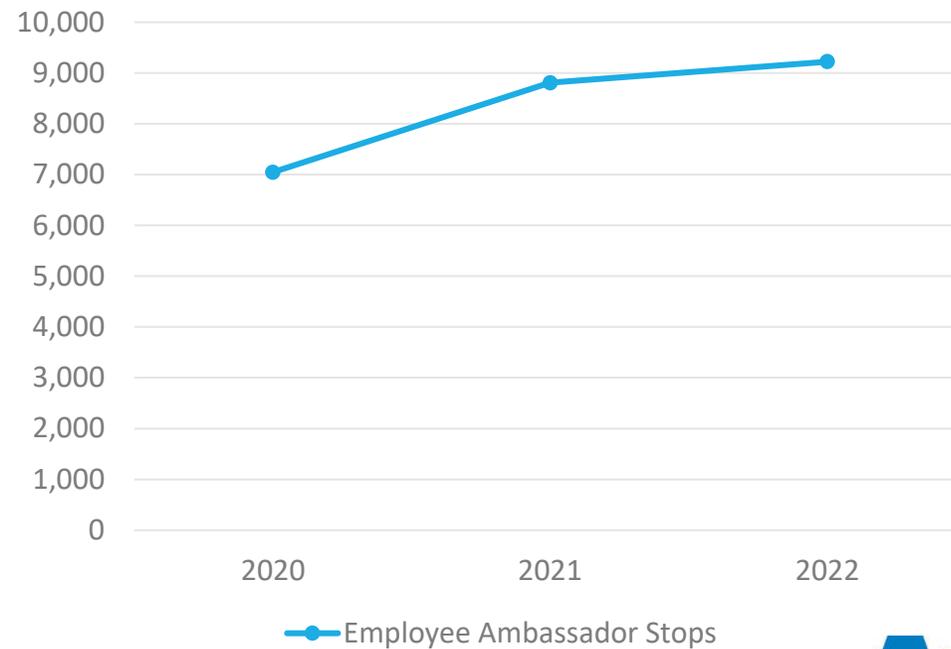




Damage Prevention Ambassador Program



Employee Ambassador Stops



Public Awareness



Gus the Gopher television ad shown in Texas media markets in August 2022 (526 spots) and after the Super Bowl.



Pandora music ad in all counties served by Atmos Energy in Texas.

59 billboards placed near our transmission assets from July-Sept. 2022.

Digital ads in public spaces across the state of Texas.



Public Awareness

Public Affairs Managers did TV interviews with 8 stations across Texas for 811 Day in August and during National Safe Digging Month.

Safe Digging Summit held by Garland, Rowlett, Sachse, Mesquite and Sunnyvale with Atmos Energy, Texas 811 and the Smalley Foundation.

Excavator Brochure mailed to 94,837 excavators in our footprint.

Attendance and sponsorship of community events that allow us to share our safety message.



MTX vs APT



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POSITIVE RESPONSE; KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR!

APT vs MTX Positive Response

Print Show Map History Send To Email Update Copy No Response Cancellation Report a DigUp View/Add files

TICKET 2371927985



Ticket Number: 2371927985 Old Ticket: 2371244412
Source: Portal Update Type: Update
Hours Notice: 48 Date: 8/7/2023 9:24 AM

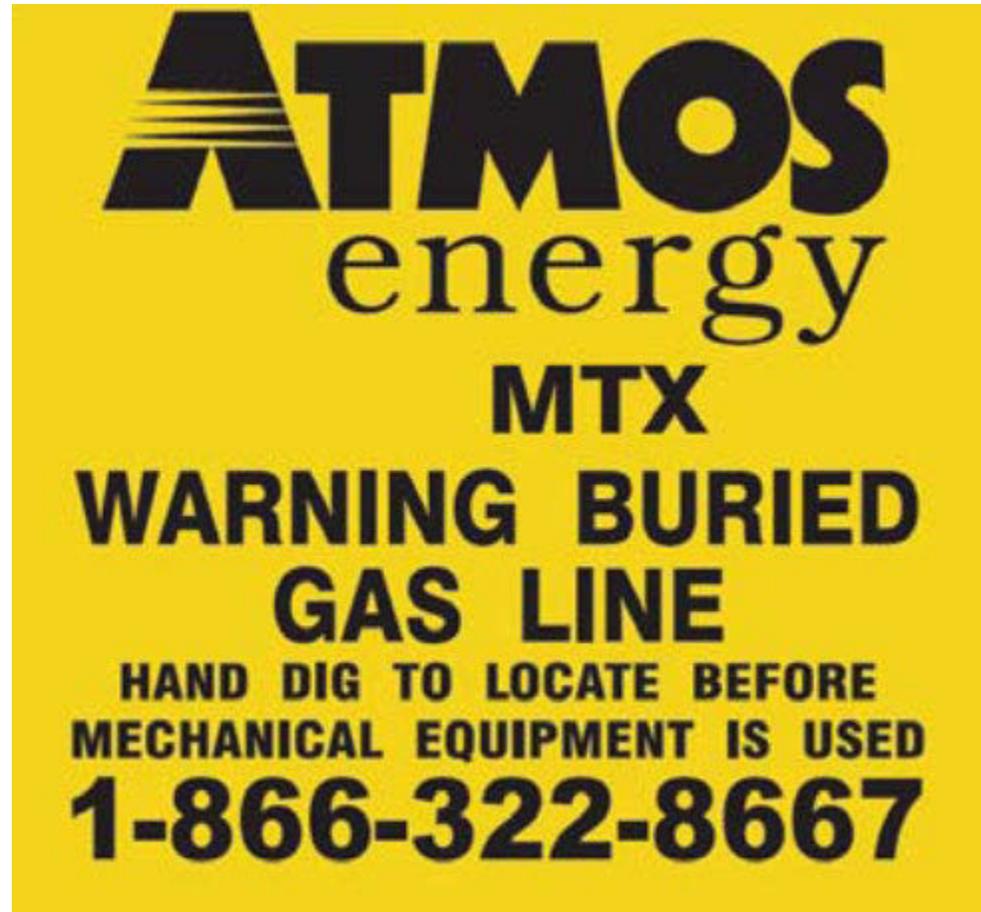
RESPONSE STATUS AS OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2023 12:42 PM

CODE	NAME	FACILITIES
ASE	Atmos Midtx • August 08, 2023 12:11 PM by korterra.pr: Located Comment:	Gas
ASEHP	Atmos Midtx • August 08, 2023 12:11 PM by korterra.pr: Clear Comment:	Gas
PSE	Atmos Pipeline Texas • August 09, 2023 9:13 AM by korterra.pr: Clear Comment: Ticket Moved From DLS 3198206 to ticket allocation On 8/8/2023 by Bishop, Luke J APT – APT clear of dig bounds;	Gas
L3CTX01	Lumen • August 07, 2023 11:07 AM by irth.pr: Clear Comment:	Fiber



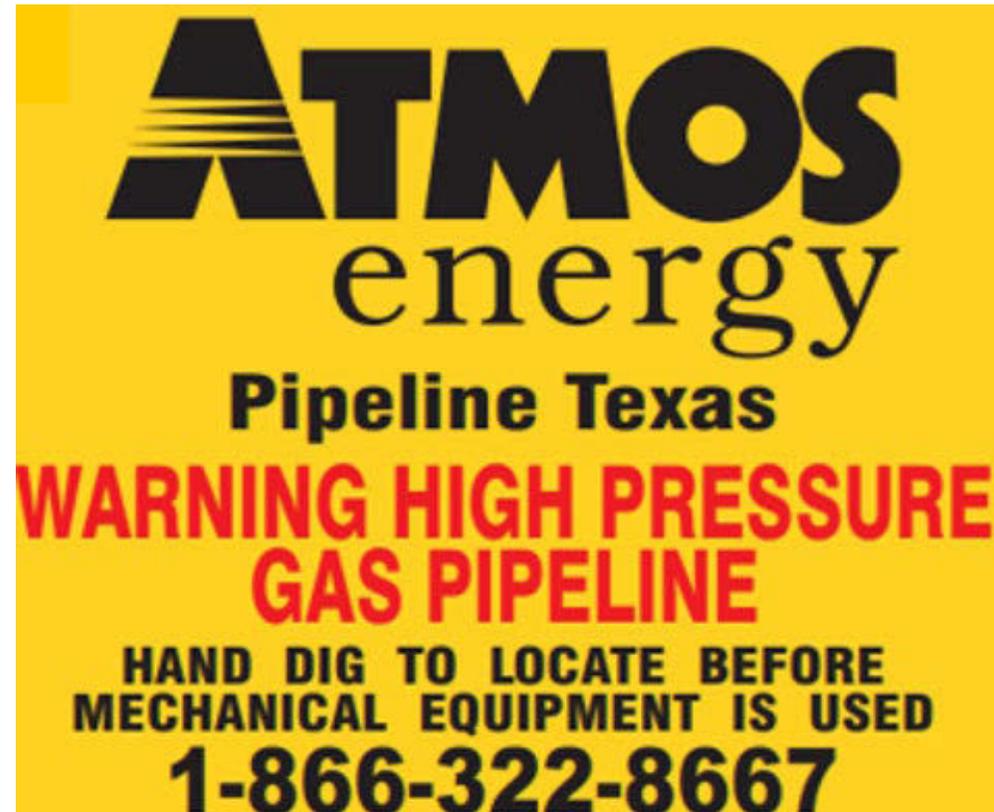
MTX Flag

These flags are used on all Atmos Energy MTX Distribution assets.



APT Flag

These flags are used on all Atmos Energy Transmission Assets.



Investigating & Reporting Damages

AUGUST 2023



Why does it matter?



Thorough investigations allow for:

- Accurate compliance reporting
 - Accurate root cause analysis
 - Improved damage recovery efforts
 - Improved damage prevention efforts
- Reduction in fines and losses



Today's Goal:

View everything you hear today through the lens of safety first!



Safety First!

Prepare for Success!



Prepare a damage investigation kit in advance:

- Camera or Phone for Photos
- Rhino Hit Kit + 2
 - Large Scale 3-foot Ruler
 - 1 Damage Cone
 - 3 Mark Cones
- Can of white spray paint
- Notepad and pen or electronic device for notes

Onsite Activities:

- Walk around entire site
- Identify and document:
 - Address and point of damage
 - Existing marks
 - Facility description
 - Excavator involved and work performed
 - Equipment used by excavator
 - General observations of surroundings and people onsite
 - Witness statements and comments

Onsite Activities:

- Setup site for photo documentation
 - Highlight existing marks using:
 - Marker cones from hit kit
 - White paint to highlight yellow markings
 - Set up hit kit - properly
 - Determine reference points
 - NOTE: do a full investigation every time



Additional Information:

- Distance of marks from actual pipe
 - Determining accuracy of markings:
 - AKA “Margin of Error”

18-inches from centerline of pipeline
 - Not to be confused with “Tolerance Zone”

CH18 – “18.2(21) Tolerance Zone – Half the nominal diameter of the underground pipeline plus a minimum of 18 inches on either side of the outside edge of the underground pipeline on a horizontal plane.”

Additional Information:

- Depth
 - Why we need to measure and document:
 - One-call law and Chapter 18
 - Depth determines jurisdiction
 - Claims & Damage Recovery not limited
 - Not related to required installation depth

Onsite Activities:

- Step-by-Step Photography
 - Start outside damage area and move in
 - Photograph damage from all sides
 - Follow 17-point diagram in job aid
 - Ensure hit kit is visible in photos
 - Capture reference points

Step by Step Photography

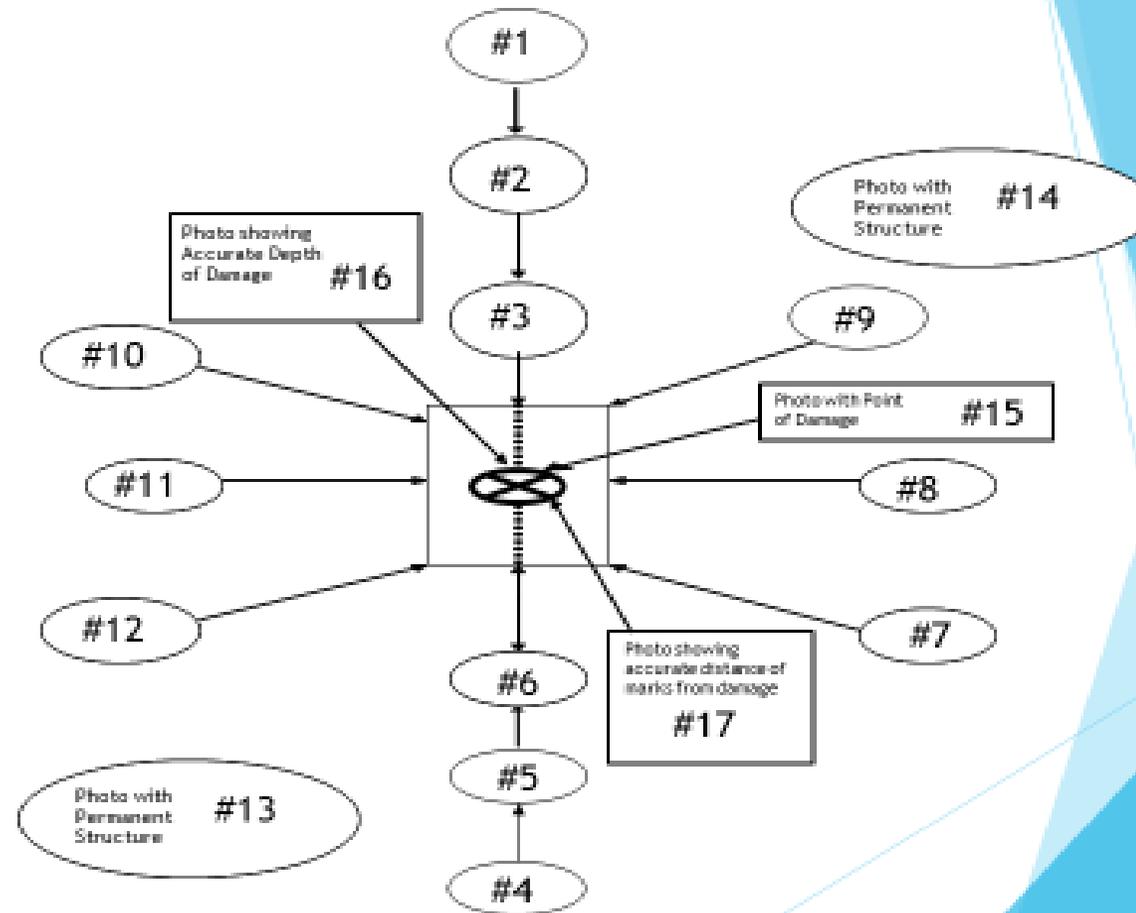
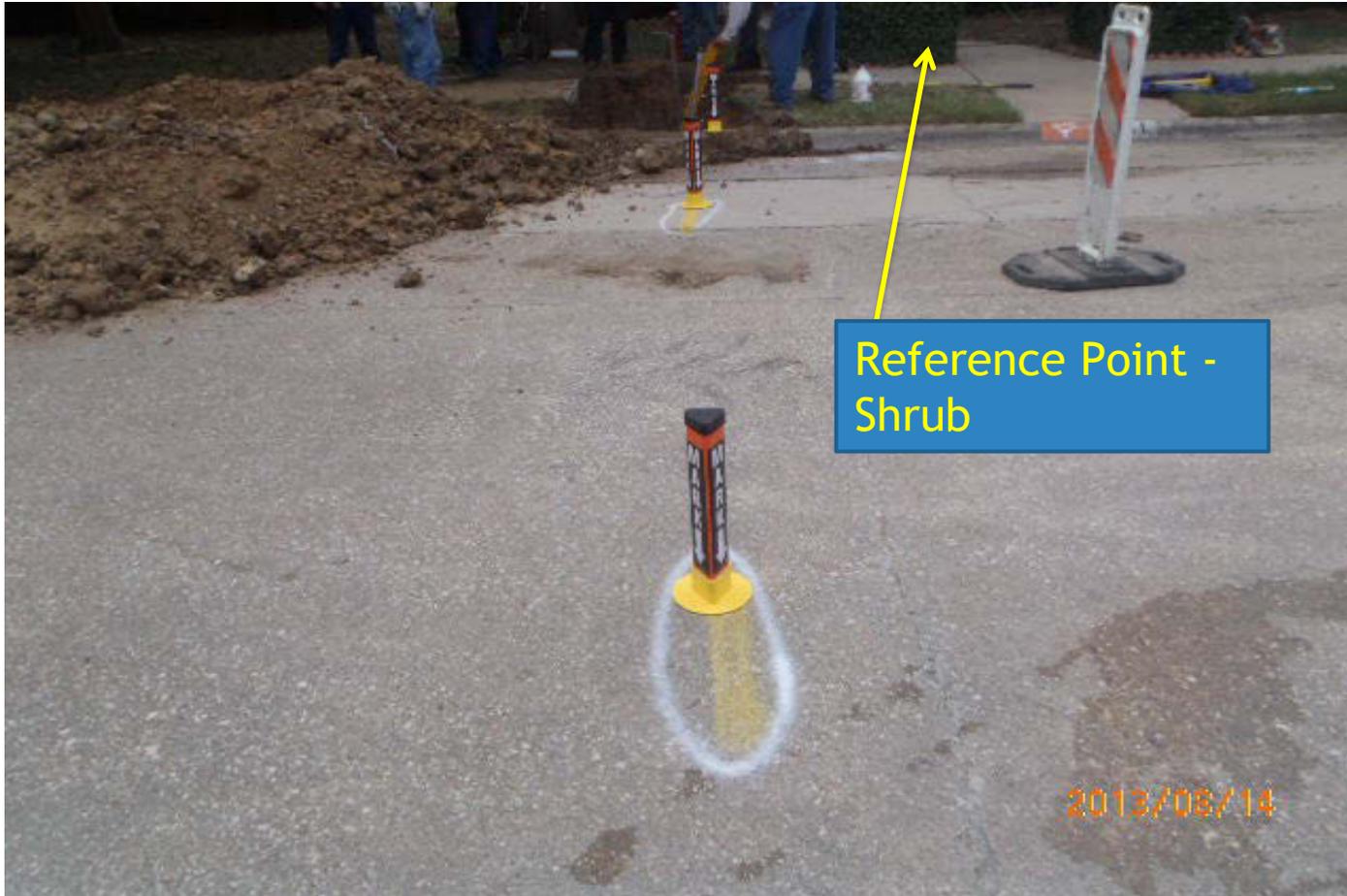




Photo of damage address using reference point

Step-by-Step Photography

Step-by-Step Photography



▪ Job aid #1-3

- Hit kit set up
- Marks circled in white paint
- Reference point from first photo
- Starting outside damage area

Step-by-Step Photography



- Reference point maintained
- Moving closer
- Capturing hit kit and surroundings

Step-by-Step Photography



▪ Job aid #4-6

- New reference point(s) established
- Capturing hit kit and surroundings
- Damage is visible
- Also satisfies job aid photo #15

Step-by-Step Photography



- Reference point maintained
- Moving closer
- Capturing hit kit and damage

Step-by-Step Photography



- Job aid #17
 - Zero end of ruler aligned
 - Ruler facing upward
 - Centerline to centerline
 - Damaged line is visible

Step-by-Step Photography

Get assistance



Keep it straight
Get low
Get background



Job aid #16

Watch for
Spoil piles!

Find and show
grade
if possible



Damage

Pre-dig



How we prove we marked the line

Step-by-Step Photography



Damage

Pre-dig



Pre-dig and Damage Photos

Step-by-Step Photography



Damage Investigation Training

Questions?

Thank you!

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www.texas811.org

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/pipeline-damage-prevention-program/>





Thank You!