ABANDONED FACILITIES:
Out of Sight – Out of Mind
Effects & Solutions
Let’s Talk for a Minute
DO WE ACCEPT THIS?
OR THIS ...?
OR THIS ...?
OR THIS ...?
BUT WE ACCEPT THIS?
WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Utility Owners (and others) leave unused facilities in public rights-of-way.
WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

• Delayed Projects
• Increased Costs
• Damaged Utilities
• Legal Actions

• No room for new installations (Where does the new permittee go in the previous slide?)
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

WHO CONTROLS THE CHAOS?

Let’s take a look ...
WHO OWNS THIS MESS?

WHO CONTROLS IT?

- Agencies
- Utility Owners
WHO CAN FIX IT?

• Agencies
• Utility Owners
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Agencies

Existing codes, laws, franchises, & other regulations must be **regularly** enforced or the creator / enforcer of the codes, laws, franchises, & other regulations **must forfeit the right to claim damages**.
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Agencies

• What are the qualifications for your Permit Issuers?

• Simply moving up the ladder?
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Agencies

Legislation can be enacted to allow abandonment for “taxation” purposes while still requiring facility mapping and records maintenance.
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

**Agencies**

- Standard Utility Locations?
- Required Removal?
- Required Survey & Record-Keeping?
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

A repository for the collection of utility records of companies that are no longer in business should be established.
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Utility Owners

• Must plan farther into the future
• Coordinate Projects
• “As-built” all installations (3D Survey)
• Maintain records (even when ownership changes)
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Utility Owners

Owners of buried facilities in public rights-of-way must maintain records of and locate for excavation purposes per One-Call requirements, a buried facility’s location until it is removed from the public rights-of-way or ownership is transferred to another entity.
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Utility Owners / Agencies

• Owners of buried facilities in public rights-of-way may not relinquish ownership by claiming to place them “out of service”, or by abandoning them.

• Owners of utilities to be “abandoned” must properly and safely evacuate/empty the underground facility.

• Consider re-purposing lines
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Utility Owners / Agencies

Where abandonment is the only reasonable option, the owner of the facility shall work with the R/W owner to determine final requirements.

• Filling Pipes / Conduits
• Make Locatable / Survey / Archive
• Remove Access Points / Structures
HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Utility Owners / Agencies

Capital Improvement Project owners for all contracts requiring excavation should include a bid item in project specifications requiring the contractor / excavator to remove encountered abandoned facilities to the extent of conflict within the project limits.
HOW DO WE FIX IT? All

Standardized symbology should be established for identifying / marking abandoned facilities.

Sandra Holmes – Arizona 811
“Unknown Line” Process

Sandra Holmes
Executive Director
Abandoned Lines

40-360.21 - Definitions

1. "Abandoned" means no longer in service and physically disconnected from a portion of the facility, or from any other facility, that is in use or still carries service.
Abandoned Lines

40-360.30 – Installation Records

D. ... If abandoned after December 31, 1988, installation records of an underground facility shall indicate if all or a portion of the facility has been abandoned. ...
Abandoned Lines

40-360.22 – … providing information …

L. For abandoned and apparently abandoned underground facilities:
1. The underground facilities operator shall notify the excavator whether the facility is active or abandoned. An inactive facility shall be considered active for purposes of this subsection…
Abandoned Lines

40-360.22 — ... providing information ...

2. (Cont.) For all other abandoned or apparently abandoned underground facilities, each one-call notification center shall establish a method of providing personnel from an underground facilities operator qualified to safely inspect and verify that the facility is abandoned or active.
Abandoned Lines

40-360.22 – ... providing information ...

3. If an excavator encounters an abandoned underground facility, the excavator shall not treat the underground facility as abandoned until the excavator has received notification that the underground facility is abandoned and has received verification of abandonment.
Abandoned Lines

• In response to the law, Arizona 811 ...
• established a method of determining whether an unmarked, uncovered facility is abandoned or active, which became known as the:

  Arizona 811 “Unknown Line” Process
“Unknown Line” Process

• Criteria determined by Locate Specialist:
  ✓ All affected facility operators listed on the 811 Ticket responded to the original request without using the “abandoned line” symbol.
  ✓ An unmarked underground facility was uncovered during the course of excavation within the job site as described on 811 Ticket

• Process is escalated to Lead or Supervisor for processing
“Unknown Line” Process

- Step 1: ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE OWNER
  - Gather description of the uncovered facility (color, size, depth, type of material);
  - If type of facility is believed to be known, “Unknown Line” sent only to underground facility operators who own that type of facility;
  - Affected facility operators have 2 business hours to visually inspect the facility to determine whether or not they own it.
“Unknown Line” Process

• Step 2: STILL DETERMINING THE OWNER
  ✓ If not claimed in 2 hours, all underground facility owners listed on request are required to visually inspect the facility within 2 hours to determine whether or not they own it.
“Unknown Line” Process

- **Step 3: DETERMINE IF ABANDONED**
  - If still not claimed, qualified personnel from underground facilities operators are asked to meet on site to safely inspect and determine whether or not the facility is abandoned or active.
  - This includes a variety of methods up to and including “windowing” the facility.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total 811 Tickets</th>
<th>Unknown Lines</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>404,732</td>
<td>2,798</td>
<td>.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>459,557</td>
<td>3,064</td>
<td>.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>467,327</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>521,961</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>.62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 1:** 89.5% (2,553)
**Step 2:** 9.9% (282)
**Step 3:** .6% (17)

**Step 1:** 89.1% (2,871)
**Step 2:** 9.9% (318)
**Step 3:** 1.0% (33)
## “Unknown Line” Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Tickets</th>
<th>Unknown Lines</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 – through 8/26/2016</td>
<td>390,424</td>
<td>2,314</td>
<td>.59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 1:** 93.0% (2,152)

**Step 2:** 6.0% (140)

**Step 3:** 1.0% (22)
Any questions?

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ABANDONED FACILITIES

Contact Al Field at Al.Field@AlField-Assoc.com with comments or suggestions

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