

# Gold Shovel Standard

## A Contractor's Perspective

Public Safety Alliance  
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UGI Utilities Inc.  
Bethlehem PA

Ralph Miller  
Vice President of Safety



**MILLER PIPELINE**  
AN MVERGE COMPANY

# Miller Pipeline

**Gas Distribution Pipeline Contractor working in 20+ States**

Miller Pipeline provides a comprehensive range of pipeline contracting and rehabilitation services for natural gas, liquids, water and wastewater pipelines. Our workforce of highly trained and skilled employees, totaling 3,000 and with office locations in over 20 states and a broad knowledge of repair, replacement and installation techniques, enables us to evaluate projects and make recommendations, which often result in alternative cost-saving solutions.



# Gold Shovel Standard

- We originally joined about 3 years ago because PG&E required it.
- We really liked some of their requirements (management commitment to damage prevention, required training annually for all employees on the state dig law, and some of the other things we already had in place – root cause investigation and action plans related to damages, etc.)



# Gold Shovel Standard

GSS recognized that they had problems with their original required reporting and metrics and sought contractor input to help find a solution. The President of MP was asked to join the GSS Board to help find a solution.

We recognized that if GSS could come up with good, common metrics that could be used by contractors across the industry, we could see continual improvements much like TRIR, EMR, DART metrics led to improvements in worker safety.



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We also recognized that our customers were going to all start asking for something like this, as it coincides with many types of their Safety Management Systems for pipeline safety.

Miller Pipeline is finishing up on getting all our nearly 3,000 employees up to speed on GSS annual training, not just the customers that require it.



# Gold Shovel Standard Training

The challenge was to come up with meaningful training that satisfies the GSS as well as all of the states that we work in with each state dig law quite different from the others.



# Gold Shovel Damage Prevention

## The Fundamental Principles for Training

1. One-Call Ticket / Reference
2. Documentation of Marks
3. Tolerance Zones
4. Locate Marks and Marking Preservation
5. Mismarked /Unmarked Facilities Procedure
6. Locate Request Updates / Refresh Marks
7. It's the Law



# Gold Shovel Standard

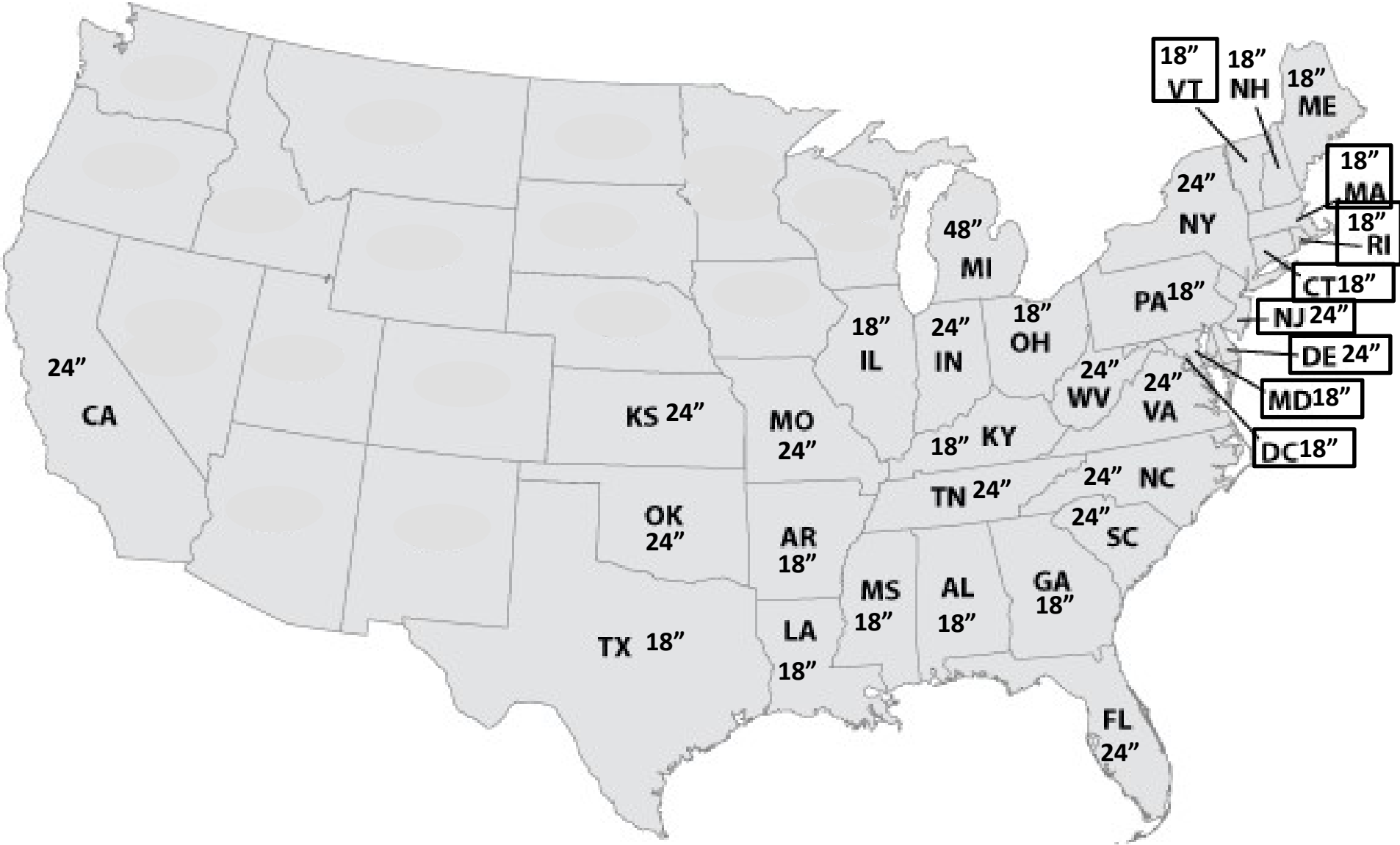
d = full working day  
h = hours

## All States Ticket Life, Advance Notice Rules

State	Ticket Life	Advance Notice	Must Start		State	Ticket Life	Advance Notice	Must Start
AL	10d	2d			MI	21d/180d	72h	14d
AR	20d	2d	10d		MS	10d	2d	
CA	28d	2d	14d		NC	15d	3d	
CT	30d	2d			NH	30d	72h	
DC	15d	2d			NJ	45d	3d	10d
DE	10d	2d			NY	None	2d	10d
FL	30d	2d			OH	None	48h	10d
IL	28d/+28d	2d			OK	10d	48h	
IN	20d	2d			PA	As long as equipment on site	3d	10d
KS	15d	2d			RI	None	72h	
KY	21d	2d	10d		SC	15d	3d	12d
GA	10d	48h			TN	15d	72h	
LA	20d	2d			VA	15d	3d	
MA	None	72h	30d		VT	30d	48h	
MD	12d	2d			WV	10d	2d	



# Tolerance Zone



# Look and Validate the Marks

- ✓ Do you see a **gas meter**?
- ✓ Do you see **transformer pads**?
- ✓ Do you see an **electric meter**?
- ✓ Are there other visible facility signs, such as a **fire hydrant** or **curb boxes** near the street or sidewalk?
- ✓ Do you see buried enclosures of any type i.e. **manhole covers**, **electrical hand holes**?





- ✓ Do you see **overhead electric lines, electric drops** or **conduit** on poles?

- ✓ Do you see a **well**? (Look for water and electric lines underground.)



- ✓ Do you see **pipeline markers** or **gas line warning markers**?



- ✓ Do you see a **propane tank** that is away from the house or building? (Look for a gas line underground going from the tank to the house or building.)



# Dig Smarter Not Harder

Proper digging simple math

  
**Not  
This  
Way!**



- Never dig perpendicular or directly over the marks based on surface area alone, you increase your odds of hitting a facility over 50 times.
- Always dig parallel to the marks then scrape toward the marks and facility.

# Gold Shovel Standard

To *achieve* GSS certification:

- Management commitment to damage prevention
- Annual basic awareness training for all affected workers
- Whistleblower and stop-work authority for workers
- Adherence to CGA Best Practices guidelines, specifically Chapter 5
- A policy to hire Gold Shovel Standard subcontractors (with few exceptions)
- Thorough investigation procedure to be used in the event of an incident



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To *achieve* GSS certification continued:

- Corrective action procedure with root cause analysis
- Report all damages (opt out option until metrics finalized)
- Share limited information about the volume and scale of their excavation business to normalize metrics



# Gold Shovel Standard

## Benefits and Positives that we see from Gold Shovel

- Recognized as Safe Excavation Contractor
- Improved Employee Safety
- Improved Public Safety
- Reduction in Property Damage
- Improved Employee Morale
- Better Employee Engagement



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# Thank You

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