

LUCC

Lane Utility Coordinating Council

Historical Highlights

www.luccdig.org

The Lane Utility Coordinating Committee organized in 1966 through efforts of three people:

- Harry Kurtz – Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone
- Mel Damewood – Eugene Water and Electric Board
- Jim Ahren – Lane County Highway Department

LUCC consisted of representatives from all utility operators in Lane County, the Oregon State Highway Department, Lane County, the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield. LUCC's primary charter was the reduction/prevention of damage to underground utility infrastructure, which was on the rise. The group held monthly meetings where they would share information about construction projects and related activities that could impact the integrity of underground utility infrastructure in the area.

Information sharing was a first attempt to proactively prevent situation that might contribute to utility damage in the field. The LUCC members maintained written lists of all construction projects with cross-references to active underground utilities within the various project areas. A contact list for LUCC members was created to encourage communication between excavators and utility operators prior to actual digging in construction areas. In 1968, LUCC became disturbing these lists in the form of a pamphlet to every backhoe operator in the area. This effort helped to reduce the number of utility damage events with LUCC's area of operation. This model of organized preventative collaboration among utility operators and government agencies was eventually adapted for use statewide.

In November 1970, during an annual meeting with LUCC members, local contractors asked LUC to come up with a one-call system that would allow a contractor to notify all utility operators of excavation activity on a project through a single phone call. Prior to the one-call system, contractors were required to call the representative of each utility on a project individually.

- 1971-1989 LUCC operated a teletype system to communicate locate requests to all utility operators.
- Somewhere in the early 1990's, the teletype system was replaced with fax machines.
- LUCC is 46 years old in 2012.

OUR CREED (from the 1971 LUCC Report)

As a member of the Lane Utility Coordinating Committee, I shall endeavor to:

Promote the function and purpose of this organization to all concerned so as to create better public relations, prevent costly damage and minimize interruption of service.

Urge all utilities, governmental subdivisions, private contractors, and individuals to coordinate their planning and construction activities with those of this organization.

Cooperate with all concerned and coordinate all construction activities of my department with this organization.

Communicate with and educate not only the various departments of my organization, but also any and all organizations involved in excavations or constructions of any type.

**LUCC meets the 1st Thursday of each month from 11:30-1pm at Sizzler's Restaurant. Please join us!
For more information on membership, please contact any LUCC Board Member at www.luccdig.org**