

# The Current *flow*

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## Reporting Close Calls/ Near Misses

CREA has launched a Close Call/ Near Miss Reporting function on the CREA website. This initiative is 100% anonymous and is intended to collect data to prevent accidents from happening.

The definition of a Close Call/ Near Miss is an undesired event where no property was damaged and no personal injuries were sustained; a slight shift in time or position, damage and/or injury could have occurred. By inputting these scenarios, CREA can trend root causes and develop training for the co-ops to help eliminate accidents from occurring.

To input a Close Call or Near Miss, visit [www.crea.coop](http://www.crea.coop), and under the Safety and Loss Control tab, select the Close Call Near Miss Reporting function.



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING BILL PASSES

The Colorado House of Representatives passed a bill that requires human trafficking prevention training for commercial drivers. It will now move to the Colorado State Senate.

According to the bill, human traffickers are using truck stops and routes as part of their criminal operations. This has been an ongoing issue that prompted the formation of the Colorado-based non-profit organization 'Truckers Against Trafficking.'

That non-profit organization and Colorado Motor Carriers Association of Colorado are working on getting HB18-1018 passed, which would require that information on human trafficking be included for all new applicants for a commercial driver's license.

Once the bill passes, Truckers Against Trafficking will provide this prevention training free of charge to CDL trainees and schools in the state. The organization's efforts in combating this issue have reached a national level by providing hotlines for truckers, lobbying for human trafficking legislation and providing the training needed to recognize this crime.

This training will be required only for those who obtain a new CDL. All drivers who currently hold a CDL will be grandfathered in and will not be required to obtain this training.



## COLORADO 811 SENATE BILL 18-167

Colorado's 811 One-Call Program was created in 1981 to prevent injury to persons and damage to property resulting from damage to underground facilities during excavation. The 811 law established a single statewide notification system administered by an association of the owners and operators of underground facilities. Through the notification association, excavators obtain crucial information regarding the location of underground facilities prior to excavation, thereby greatly reducing risks of injuries or damages.

Colorado Senate Bill 18-167 updates best practices, provides for tier transition and creates an enforcement provision. The bill was amended in the Senate to include a seat on the commission for a representative nominated by the Colorado Rural Electric Association.

Updates to current law included in SB 18-167 address industry advancements in the following ways:

- The bill adds a requirement that all newly installed facilities are locatable, by which Colorado can make it easier to find — and protect — those facilities the next time excavation is required
- For government-owned projects, the bill establishes guidelines on the information to be included in bid

plans stamped by a licensed civil engineer for horizontal projects. This information improves construction plans by reducing the number of unknowns prior to construction, thereby reducing the amount of risk that must be priced into a contractor's bid while also reducing the number of times projects are delayed due to a contractor encountering an unexpected utility.

- It clarifies the duties of owners and operators in marking the location of facilities and the duties of excavators in having adequate markings throughout the excavation period.

SB18-167 provides for Tier Membership Transition in the following ways:

- Phases in a true "one-call" system by eliminating the tiered membership provisions, (within two years after the effective date of the bill) and removes the exemption for the Colorado Department of Transportation.
- Specifies that current Tier-2 members will begin to receive the same electronic notifications as Tier-1 members from Colorado 811 beginning on the effective date of the bill but no later than January 1, 2019, at no cost for two years.
- A true "one-call" system improves safety by ensuring all owners and

operators receive notification of excavation activities from the 811 Notification Association. It will also improve efficiency: the current system adds time and confusion to the pre-excavation notification process by requiring excavators to make multiple calls to facility owners.

- The bill creates an enforcement provision.
- It creates an Underground Damage Prevention Safety Commission composed of representatives from local government, owners or operators, excavators and the chief executive officer of the notification association.
- Authorizes the safety commission to accept and review complaints and impose penalties that may include remedial action such as training and education as well as penalties.
- Does not impact any person's ability to pursue civil remedies and reasonable attorney fees for personal injury or property damage.
- Establishes an even playing field and applies enforcement equally to all participants of the state's one-call program while acknowledging local government authority to enforce its own program requirements.

# HOT TOPIC: SUBSTATION ENTRY



The question of substation entry protocol has been an ongoing concern around the state. Whether it is contractors, telecommunication representatives or cooperative employees, who can enter a substation under certain conditions is governed by guidelines put forth by OSHA.

According to CFR 1910.269(u)(4)(iii), unqualified persons may not enter rooms or other spaces while electric supply lines or equipment are energized. OSHA defines a “qualified employee” as someone who is trained and competent in:

- The skills and techniques necessary to distinguish exposed live parts from other parts of electric equipment,
- The skills and techniques necessary to determine the nominal voltage of exposed live parts,
- The minimum approach distances specified in this subpart corresponding to the voltages to which the qualified employee will be exposed and the skills and techniques necessary to maintain those distances,
- The proper use of the special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools for working on or near exposed energized parts of electric equipment, and
- The recognition of electrical hazards to which the employee may be exposed and the skills and techniques necessary

to control or avoid these hazards. A letter of interpretation from OSHA regarding non-electrically qualified persons entering substations and opening electrical equipment within restricted areas for visual inspection only, has deemed these workers’ exposure to be heightened due to the removal of enclosures and guards. Because of this new exposure, these employees must be trained and competent in the following:

1. They must know what is and is not safe to touch in the specific areas they will be entering [paragraph 1910.269(a)(2)(ii)(A)].
2. They must know the maximum voltage of the area [paragraph 1910.269(a)(2)(ii)(B)].
3. They must know the minimum approach distances for the maximum voltage within the area [paragraph 1910.269(a)(2)(ii)(C)].

4. They must be trained in the recognition and proper use of protective equipment that will be used to provide protection for them and in the work practices necessary for performing their specific work assignments within the area [paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(D)]. (Note: Only fully qualified electrical employees may install insulating equipment on energized parts.)

Until these “qualified employees” have demonstrated proficiency in the work practices involved with their work, they are considered to be employees undergoing on-the-job training and must be under the direct supervision of a qualified person at all times. According to the definition of “qualified employee,” the employee must also have demonstrated an ability to perform work safely at his or her level of training.

It is expected that an orientation familiarizing the employee with the safety fundamentals given here will be conducted before an employee undergoing training is allowed to enter a restricted area.



## RESAP:SECTION 16: SUBSTATIONS

In previous years, RESAP observations have collectively revealed consistent results regarding substations. Below are strengths and opportunities for substations.

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
SWITCHING PROCEDURES: Upon interviewing affected employees, switching procedures are consistent and adequate.	SIGNAGE: There have been consistent issues with improper and missing signage. Remember, “Warning!” signs are on the outside perimeter of the fence and “Danger!” on the inside of the substation.
SCADA: SCADA protocols such as restricted access, LOTO procedures, and handling have shown teams there is a high level of understanding the system.	FENCE GAPS: The clearance allowance for gaps underneath fences is 4”. Ensure gravel levels are high enough to prevent entry of animals or people.
EQUIPMENT PROTECTION: RESAP teams have seen an increase in a variety of protective devices for birds, snakes, raccoons, etc. that also protect the electrical equipment.	GROUNDS: Grounds were found missing, cut, or damaged. Ensure that equipment, fences, etc. are connected to the ground grid.