



Gold Shovel Standard®

Prevent. Empower. Protect.

Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving workforce and public safety and the integrity of buried infrastructure. GSS believes that greater transparency in all aspects of damage prevention among buried-asset operators, locators and excavators is essential to drive continuous improvement, and vital to increasingly safe working conditions and communities.

To: To Whom It May Concern
Subject: Gold Shovel Standard Certified Excavators

Gold Shovel Standard encourages all entities in need of services that include excavation work to preferentially consider GSS Certified companies.

What is Gold Shovel Standard Certification?

GSS Certification is a proactive indication of an increased investment in damage-prevention to drive safety, reduce damages, and minimize the risks associated with excavating on or around buried assets. GSS Certified excavators rely upon a robust safety management system, which specifically incorporates prevention of damage to critical buried infrastructure to increase public and workforce safety. To obtain Gold Shovel Standard Certification, an excavator must have a complete Damage Prevention-Safety Management System (DP-SMS). Gold Shovel Standard excavators:

- Have a leadership and management commitment to infrastructure damage prevention
- Require specific training for all workers on jobs with excavation
- Enforce whistleblower and stop work responsibility for workers
- Maintain a policy to adhere to specialized best practices of excavation operations
- Maintain a policy to hire Gold Shovel Standard subcontractors with few exceptions
- Use thorough investigation and corrective action procedures
- Have access to specialized tools to track and manage their operations to prevent damages

“There has been a significant decline in underground damage. GSS has proven to be a very effective program. It’s win-win for everyone. A win for employees, a win for customers and a win for the public.” - GSS Certified Utility Contractor



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Gold Shovel Standard works to *Prevent* life-threatening damages, *Empower* field teams to operate safely, and *Protect* excavation crews and the public.

Get more information by visiting
www.GoldShovelStandard.org

