



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Utilities Protection Center of Georgia

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6TH DELEGATION FROM CHINA VISITS GADOT

Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) Utilities Division was host to members from China's Department of Transportation on July 20. These individuals were part of the sixth delegation from China to the GDOT for high-level training in all aspects of GDOT operations, particularly construction and design. The Chinese government is currently pursuing foreign training for its' technical staff to benefit large transportation projects all over China. China is presently developing something similar to Georgia's Interstate System. Their stay in Georgia began in March of this year and the delegation will return home at the end of August.

The delegation heard from GDOT's Steve Gafford Utilities Liaison Engineer, of McDonough and Mike Bolden State Permit Program Engineer of Griffin. Several issues concerning the importance of being safe, permitting, right of way acquisition and planning well were discussed. "Keeping Georgians safe and connected is our goal." Gafford stated.

Also on the agenda speaking for the Utilities Protection Center (UPC) of Georgia was Holly Files, Liaison Manager from Macon. The UPC is the state's one call center. Files explained that any one wanting to dig with mechanized equipment in the state of Georgia is required by law to call and request the underground facilities to be located and to report any activity that may take place within 10 feet of overhead high voltage power lines. Once the UPC has gathered the necessary information it forwards the locate request on to an average of seven member utility companies who in turn send locators out to mark their respective lines with paint or flags.

"The UPC and GDOT, along with numerous other groups across the state and nation, work together saving lives and preventing damage and keeping utility service from being interrupted unnecessarily," stated Files.

For further information please visit the GDOT website at www.dot.state.ga.us/utilities or the UPC website at www.gawpc.com.

Cutline – Photo attached

Pictured L-R: Holly Files, UPC; Mike Bolden, GDOT; Tian Lin; Jaing Xinting; Zhang Jun; Chen Dongfeng; Meghan Chestnutt, UPC; Steve Gafford, GDOT.

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