

Braselton Summit Agenda

8:00 – 9:00: Breakfast & Networking

9:00 – 9:15: Welcome and Vendor Intros

Join Georgia 811 as we kick off the 3rd Annual Damage Prevention Summit. Vendors will have an opportunity to introduce themselves to attendees with a short intro of their company and product information.

9:15 – 10:40: Georgia 811 Update and Q&A

Georgia 811 will provide an annual update to include information about ticket totals, operations, public education efforts, and IT developments and tools. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions for Georgia 811 staff to answer. Attendees are encouraged to send questions in ahead of time by emailing Holly Files at HFiles@Georgia811.com.

10:40 – 11:00: Break

Attendees are encouraged to visit vendor booths during the break. Take the opportunity to learn about resources that may help your organization.

11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.: Google Fiber: The Value of Utility Owner Coordination with State 811 Agencies, Excavation Vendors, and Locate Companies for Large Projects

GFiber's work demonstrates that while billions of dollars in funding are available to expand broadband networks to reduce the digital divide, this also poses an increased risk. Recently, GFiber experienced project delays related to locating practices. The company found several utilities were overloading the locate system with an unexpected number of large projects and the volume of locate notices was overwhelming the capacity of locate companies. In collaboration with involved stakeholders, an end-to-end review of the process was completed for projects in 10 states and to-date, a 39 percent decrease in locate-related project delays has been achieved. Presented by Wesley Speicher, Head of Technical Operations for GFiber's East Region

11:40 – 12:00 pm: Local Utility Coordinating Committees

Learn more about the vision, needs, and successes of your regional UCCs, and see how they play a part in the statewide Georgia Utility Coordinating Council.

12:00 – 1:00: Lunch

1:00 – 1:10pm: Georgia 811 Showcase

Take a look at some new technologies Georgia 811 is offering to stakeholders and participate in audience trivia for a chance to win a fabulous prize.

1:10 – 2:10: Excavator/Locator Panel

Join representatives from Georgia 811's Excavator and Locator Panels as they share how their organizations are attempting to decrease damages as part of Common Ground Alliance's "50 in 5" Challenge, a nationwide-initiative challenging stakeholders to reduce damages to critical underground utilities by 50% in five years. The session will include topics such as potholing, maintaining clearance, on-time locates, workforce management, Large Project successes, and employee retention.

2:10 – 2:30 pm: Marking Standards

The updated Georgia Underground Marking Standards (PSC Rule 515-9-4.14) went into effect on January 11, 2024. This presentation will include a comprehensive review of the PSC Rule with an emphasis on 2024 changes that include the communication of “no conflict” ticket responses, updated language regarding the requirement to use paint for marking, the marking of bundled lines that share a trench, marking of ducts, and marking requirements for traffic control and traffic management systems.