

## Common Ground of Nebraska Launches Free Locator Training Workshops



Workshop Instructor, Travis Beran with Subsurface Solutions conducts hands-on water line training.

On July 31, 2008 the Common Ground of Nebraska (CGN) successfully launched the pilot Locator Training Workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Lincoln Electric Systems Training Facility. Sixty-eight locators attended the free workshop comprised of individuals with less than a year in the underground locating industry to seasoned professionals with more than 20 years experience.

Travis Beran with Subsurface Solutions conducted the day long workshop with classroom theory during the morning session and hands-on field training during the afternoon session. Shon Olsen and Bill Uitts with ELM and Craig Maline with Consolidated Utility Services, Inc. assisted with the field instruction. During the field training, attendees broke off into utility specific divisions to allow for more specific instruction regarding the unique characteristics of the varying

facilities. Individuals from gas, electric, water, sewer, CATV, telecom, municipalities, private facilities and railroad were in attendance for both sessions.

Featured speakers kicked off the event highlighting the locating industry in Nebraska and the commitment of the CGN and the National Common Ground Alliance in ensuring shared responsibility among all parties involved in the underground damage prevention process. These speakers included Susan Lynch, CGA Regional Partners Co-Chair with Digger's Hotline/Consolidated Utility Services; Dan Maschka, CGN Chairman with Northern Natural Gas and Arch York, CGA Best Practices Co-Chair with Sprint/Nextel.

The CGN's idea of hosting free locator training workshops was developed to provide affordable and consistent locator training opportunities to individuals in the underground damage prevention industry. The Lincoln, Nebraska event was a test pilot to measure interest and need for these training opportunities across the State of Nebraska. Follow-up surveys from the workshop indicated a high level of satisfaction regarding the information presented and the need for future workshops in various areas of Nebraska. 100% of the survey respondents indicated they would recommend the workshop to others.

The CGN, a Regional Partner of the Common Ground Alliance, will be scheduling additional free workshops during the upcoming year across Nebraska. For further information regarding upcoming workshops, please contact Susan Griess-Lynch at 402-334-3424 or [susan.griess@cusinc.com](mailto:susan.griess@cusinc.com).

*"When I was approached about attending this event, I figured it would be of no benefit to me as I have been locating for over 20 years. What could they teach me that I don't already know? I'm glad I came because I learned a lot and realized there was a lot to the technology that I wasn't using correctly. This was a great opportunity!"*

*-Workshop Attendee  
Gas Industry*



Bill Uitts with ELM assists with the field instruction.