

B4 U DIG

An Educational Newsletter from:



Spring 2024

Fax To the Future

My family and I were watching our favorite VHS movie the other night, when my pager went off. It seemed to be an important message from work, so I ran to my rotary phone and checked in. Thankfully all was well, but I had to review a document I recently submitted for a big project. I headed to my computer, fired up Windows 95, and popped in the floppy disk that I saved the file on. I breathed a sigh of relief when I verified that all my facts and figures were in order. I then turned to my trusty typewriter, wrote up a quick note for my boss, and sent it off via my fax machine. All was right with the world.

Now, if I told you that story took place in the early 1990s, it wouldn't have seemed too out of the ordinary. But what if someone was using all that old technology today? Or even ten years ago? We would all be saying, "hey – stop living in the past!" And the past is exactly where all that stuff belongs. Afterall, they have fax machines on display in the Smithsonian!

The fax machine as we know it was developed in 1964, and since then we've had some pretty major technological advancements including the desktop computer, GPS, and the Internet, as well as cellphones with more computing power than the Apollo moon missions. So, with all this great stuff and new technology, including fast internet and email, isn't it time to give up the fax for receiving your PA 811 notifications?

If that's not convincing enough, how does the saying go? "Show me the money!" You may not realize it, but if you're receiving your PA 811 notifications, or tickets, via fax, you're paying nearly 40 percent more than email delivery! Even in small companies and municipalities, that adds up. Not to mention all the money you'll save on paper and maintenance for the fax machine.

Nervous about making the switch? Fear not! PA 811 has you covered with quick and easy ways to receive, view, and respond to all of your excavation and design tickets. Receiving via email is a great place to start. Tickets arrive instantly, you can view them on your computer or smart phone, save them to an email folder, and you don't even have to print them if you don't want to.

Perhaps an even more efficient method, though, is to get your tickets with our free online application, Online Ticket Management (OTM). With OTM, you can view all of your tickets, respond, and leave a note with just a couple of clicks, and run reports on past tickets and responses for up to five years. Plus, the newest update to OTM allows you to attach files and photos to your responses! With OTM access on your cellphone, you can receive a ticket, mark out your facilities, take a photo of the marks, and respond all in a matter of seconds! Having photos documenting your mark outs is critical not only for verifying the work you did, but also for any questions that may arise during that project about the location or validity of your markings.

Then, of course, there is the Cadillac of project management applications – PA 811's Coordinate PA. In conjunction with OTM, Coordinate PA (CPA) allows you to stay in continual contact with project engineers and excavators, ensuring you have all the information you need as a facility owner. Not only can you upload documents and photos into CPA, but you can also include your facility maps, communicate instantly with other project contacts, check on project status, and look for collaboration opportunities if you are performing planning work for your own project. Oh, and CPA is free to use!

So, if you're ready to make the jump to lightspeed and hop off the fax-a-saurus, give your local PA 811 liaison a call – we'd be happy to help with this and any other PA 811 question that you have! Oh, and in the time it took you to read this article, more than 150 million emails were sent worldwide – let's add a few more to that with your next PA 811 tickets.



Switching from fax to email delivery can save you 40%!

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www.paonecall.org



**Pennsylvania One Call:
The Keystone of Damage Prevention**

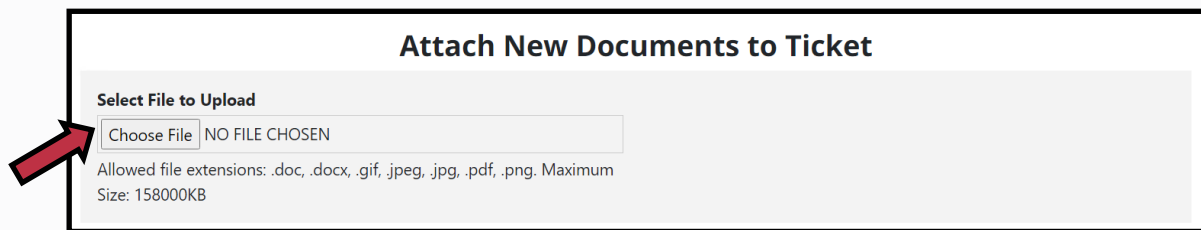
Pennsylvania 811 Introduces Ticket Attachments

Pennsylvania 811's new ticket attachment feature is a significant enhancement in facilitating efficient and safe excavations. This new feature allows the user to attach additional information to tickets such as maps, images, permits, and subsurface utility engineering data. Ticket attachments aims to improve communication and reduce the chances of any miscommunication regarding the excavation site. This tool not only benefits the excavators but also the facility owners and municipalities by providing them with comprehensive information about the proposed excavation.

For municipalities that require permits, this feature can streamline the process by enabling excavators to demonstrate compliance easily. Permit information can be uploaded as an attachment for the facility owner who may want verification of the permit prior to excavation commencing.

With the increasing prevalence of underground infrastructure e.g., current broadband initiatives, ensuring accurate information about utility locations is crucial for safety and efficiency. The ability to upload subsurface utility engineering data as ticket attachments further enhances the excavation process.

The goal is to ensure excavations can start and finish without any issue. There is never too much information to provide when proposing an excavation project. This not only contributes to the safety of workers and the public but also helps in avoiding potential damages to underground utilities. Ticket Attachments is a valuable tool for stakeholders involved in excavation projects to enhance safety, communication, and efficiency throughout the excavation process.



Upcoming Events:

May 14, 2024	Webinar – Coordinate PA	8 a.m.
May 21, 2024	Webinar – Designer Obligations	1 p.m.
May 28, 2024	Webinar – Web Ticket Entry	1 p.m.
June 4, 2024	Webinar – Coordinate PA	1 p.m.
June 11, 2024	Webinar – Online Ticket Management	8 a.m.
July 2, 2024	Webinar – Coordinate PA	8 a.m.

Visit www.pa1call.org/events to sign up and to see additional upcoming events!

Coordinate PA Releases New Updates

Have you discovered the benefits of using Coordinate PA (CPA)? If not, what are you waiting for? CPA was developed by Pennsylvania 811 as its flagship project management software to enhance utility coordination. CPA serves as a secure repository for all project details, including the ability to submit design, complex project, and routine excavation notifications (tickets) without the need to pick up the phone and call 811.

CPA functionality is constantly evolving. Pennsylvania 811 in conjunction with JMT Technology Group review stakeholder feedback to create and implement enhancements for an improved user experience. The most recent update having occurred on Nov. 30, 2023.

This CPA enhancement permits users to attach files to their complex project and routine tickets, schedule tickets for future release, view maps full screen, participate in shared 'communities,' and view opportunities to collaborate with other underground projects in a defined area.

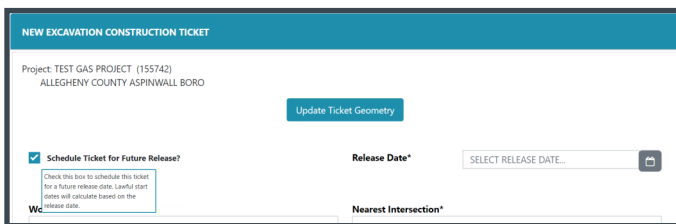
Attaching files to tickets

Existing project, phase or location documents can be attached to a ticket during submission and/or scheduling. Copied tickets will allow ticket attachments to be retained on the new ticket. (View ticket attachments in the Tickets tab, Actions column, and select Documents.)

Excavators may use this feature to attach photos of a job site to a ticket so that affected facility owners can see exactly where the work will be done.

Scheduling Tickets

Excavators can schedule tickets for the next day up to 11 months in the future. When the ticket is scheduled, lawful start dates are calculated based upon the release date. Scheduled tickets can be edited or deleted prior to the release date. In the Tickets tab, there is now a Scheduled Tickets tab. Forget that you scheduled a ticket? This is not a problem, as reminder emails will be sent three days prior to the scheduled release date for each ticket, and a dashboard reminder will display for all scheduled tickets if Reminders are enabled.



This feature is useful for excavators because they no longer have to wait to input a complex project meeting or routine ticket into CPA, as they can simply schedule several tickets for a future release date. If an excavator hosts a preconstruction meeting and there is a locate schedule agreed upon, the excavator may schedule tickets for the duration of the job while spending less time revisiting a job site and timing the tickets one by one. (Select "Create Project Ticket" and under the "Update Ticket Geometry" button a checkbox for "Schedule Ticket for Future

Release" is displayed. Once selected, a Release Date must be selected.)

View maps full screen

The map can be expanded and collapsed from the project, phase or location detail's view. The map view can be visually crowded in urban areas where lots of projects are going on concurrently. Users now have the benefit of larger maps and less distractions when creating projects and tickets and communicating with project stakeholders.

Link to your Communities

A new link to 'My Communities' has been added to the profile menu which will link to the user's Coordinating Committees. If you participate in one of Pennsylvania 811's 32 Coordinating Committees, you can instantly share information with other

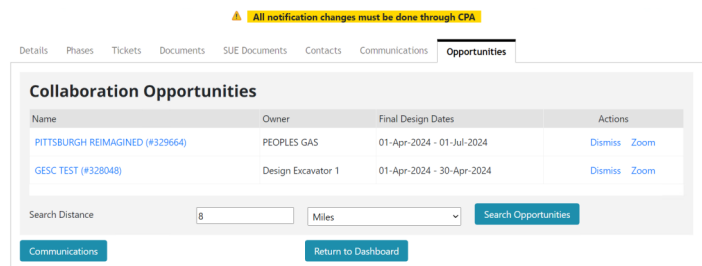


members about your ongoing projects, as long as they are a CPA user and are given access to a project.

Get notified of opportunities to collaborate with other underground projects in a defined area.

Collaboration opportunities are identified as those "in progress" or "planning" with overlapping project boundaries and dates in the future.

This feature is particularly useful to notify a project owner when an excavation job is occurring in close proximity to another already planned. The feature makes it easier for project owners to avoid tearing up and repaving streets multiple times in a short time



frame. These common occurrences were one of the ideas behind CPA's creation.

All in all, this recent update is reflective of Pennsylvania 811's commitment to stakeholders to continually improve tools based on user feedback. If any training is needed on CPA or its new features, please reach out to one of the friendly liaisons. They would be delighted to provided education on the newest bells and whistles!

Pennsylvania One Call Hits a Milestone with One Millionth Dig Notification

Pennsylvania 811 recently hit a milestone with its one millionth dig notification received on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 1:41 pm for the year. This is a significant number, especially with the ongoing infrastructure upgrades and home projects taking place all over the state.

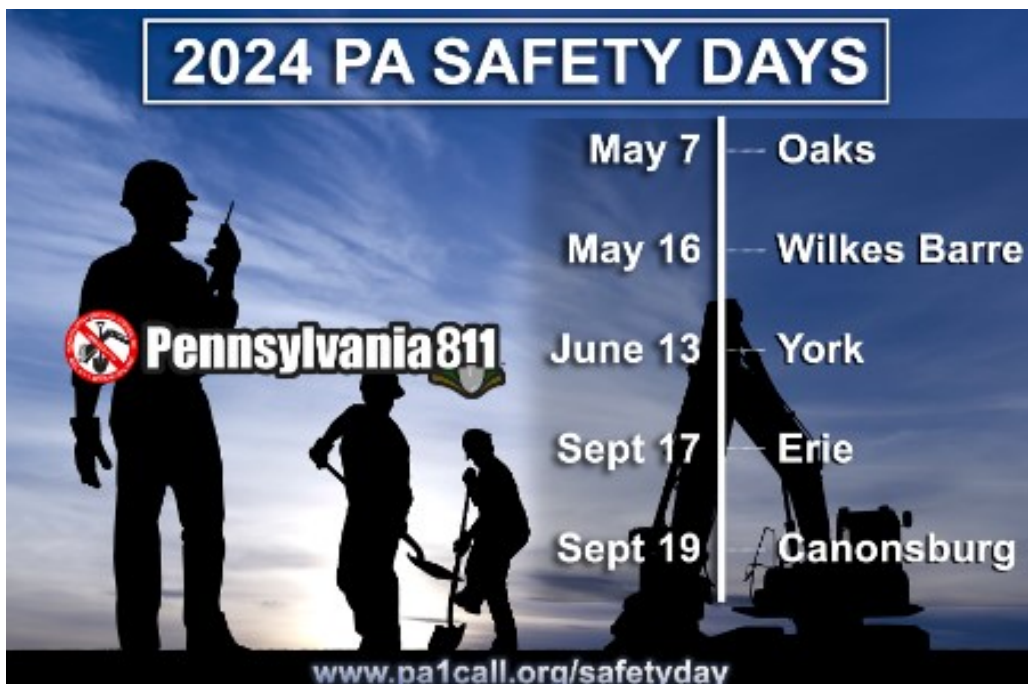
As Mr. Kiger, CEO and President of Pennsylvania One Call System states, "While we celebrate this highpoint, we'd like to see the amount of notifications increase in 2024. We are encouraging everyone within the industry, including homeowners, to concentrate on three focus areas in the upcoming year—consistent use of Pennsylvania 811, key excavator practices, precise position and timely utility locates."

According to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report, the annual rate of damages to buried infrastructure in the U.S. has remained stagnant for most of the last decade, and costs the U.S. a staggering \$30 billion every year. Each of the hundreds of thousands of dig-ins to underground utilities that occur annually has the potential to cripple communities and businesses by cutting them off from critical services, cause injury, or even loss of life. CGA is the national nonprofit trade association dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, the people who dig near them, and their communities.

"It is crucial for those who are planning to dig to remember the importance of safety. Digging without knowing the precise location of underground utilities can be extremely dangerous. It can result in serious injury or even death, as well as inconvenient service disruptions and costly repairs. Hitting underground gas, electric, communications, water or sewer lines can have a major impact on communities and businesses," said Bill Kiger. "For professional contractors and homeowners, we cannot stress enough the importance of planning ahead and giving the required three business day notice before digging."

While the consequences of not contacting Pennsylvania 811 can be severe, it is equally important for those with complex projects to use Coordinate PA; as part of Pennsylvania 811's operating system. A complex project can be defined as lengthy in duration, impactful to the community, large in size, or the work site can be complicated and complex. Coordinate PA was designed to assist project owners and excavators with their coordinating efforts while allowing all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the project, plan and work together on an effective locating schedule. In 2023, Pennsylvania 811 achieved another milestone with over 25,000 projects entered into Coordinate PA.; this marks a 211% increase from the previous year. Additionally, Pennsylvania 811 attended numerous preconstruction meetings across the state and encourages all stakeholders to participate in one of the 32 active Utility Coordinating Committees, which convene regularly to discuss upcoming projects.

Pennsylvania 811 continues to play an essential role in promoting collaboration and communication among stakeholders. For more information, visit www.paonecall.org. While it may be tempting to skip the 811 process, it is never worth endangering lives. Safety is in your hands. Every dig. Every time.



Contact us!

Follow us on social media!



To place a dig or design notification in Pennsylvania, please call 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776

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West Mifflin, PA 15122

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