

Summer 2021

OKIE811.ORG



The SCOOP

OKLAHOMA ONE-CALL SYSTEM, INC.



What's Inside

OKIE811 Navigates Continued COVID Challenges

Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO Virtual Sessions

Introducing the OKIE811 Service Area Editor

COVID Update

By OKIE811 Executive Director - Susan Bohl

Here at OKIE811, 90% of our team are safely vaccinated from COVID and we have returned our Corporate staff to the office at least 2 to 3 days a week. Contact Center staff remain working from home since this was a model we had in place well before COVID required us to move most everyone home in early 2020. Additionally, we have great processes and productivity tools in place for those taking and processing locate requests.

With our ticket volume 20.9% higher this year as compared to 2020, we continue to include warnings and disclaimers that COVID

may still impact the timeliness of locates as many of our members and stakeholder groups are having difficulty with staffing for the increased demand. Like so many other industries in Oklahoma, hiring good employees that are passionate about Damage Prevention can be challenging due to rising inflation as well as there being a shrinking candidate pool. So we ask everyone to continue practicing patience and understanding as we still have a global pandemic we're contending with.

The Management Team at OKIE811 continues to be proactive in our response to COVID related issues and works hard to be positioned to respond accordingly. If you have issues or concerns about our services, please feel free to reach out to me directly (sbohl@okie811.org or 800-522-6544 x7120).



Members Portal Sign Up for Mandatory Positive Response

Per the amended section 142.6 B of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, each operator of underground facilities shall provide a Positive Response to the notification center (i.e. OKIE811 via our Portal) prior to the expiration of the required notice period. Facility owners & operators registered with OKIE811 will continue to work each locate request as usual, and now must communicate the status of locate requests back to OKIE811 through the Positive Response feature in the OKIE811 Portal. Excavators will have one central place to see all the responses from each operator on the ticket prior to starting their work. This will be beneficial now that excavators must check for responses from all companies and check that all facilities that may be affected by the proposed excavation or demolition have been marked prior to excavation or demolition. The value of mandatory positive response is having centralized communications between the facility operator and the excavator to ensure underground lines are not damaged and to help further ensure the safety of those



digging around vital underground facilities. This law change applies to all owners/operators of underground lines. Since mandatory positive response is a part of the law change, any company that does not provide positive response via the OKIE811 portal could be facing fines or sanctions for not complying with the law. Members, who are registered for the OKIE811 Portal, can login and enter responses using the Positive Response feature. We have multiple resources available on our website at www.okie811.org/member-portal-help such as recorded webinars and tutorials on

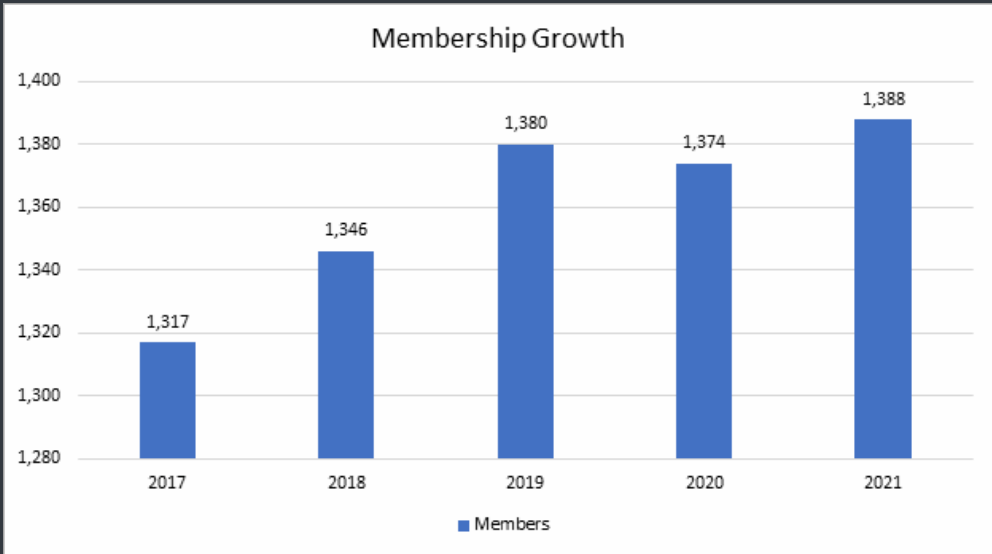
how the positive response feature works. If a member company currently uses a separate system, such as a ticket management system or a locating service, there is no change on your end. The responses entered in your current system can be uploaded into the OKIE811 Portal. Simply contact Member-Services@okie811.org if this is something your company is interested in setting up. The first step is to register to use the OKIE811 Portal. Getting registered just got easier with a new form.

Membership Updates

OKIE811 Membership continues to increase. We have over 1,350 members registered with the One Call Notification Center. OKIE811 membership is made up of General and Associate members, who own or operate underground facilities in the State of Oklahoma.

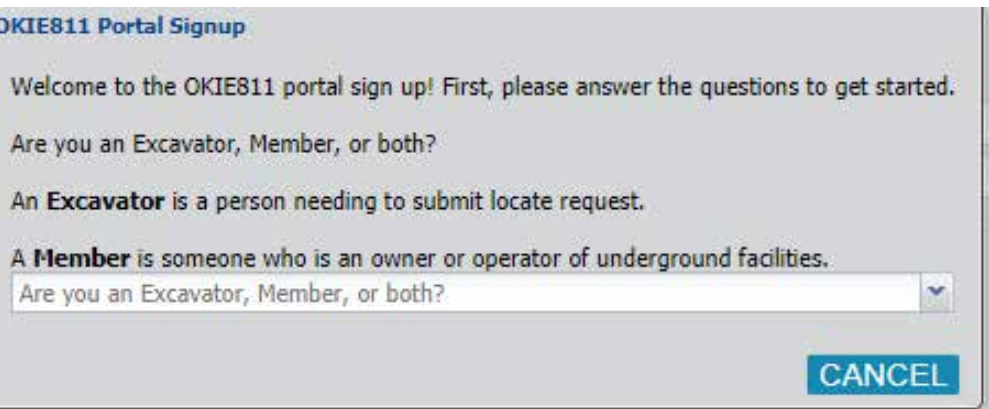
We also have sustaining members, who do not own or operate underground facilities, but help support and promote the dig safely message and the purpose of this organization.

Any person or organization who owns or operates underground facilities in the State of Oklahoma or would like to help promote and support the purpose of OKIE811 can apply for membership. Apply online at www.OKIE811.org/join-now.



Get 811 Certified!

Have you completed your 811 Certification? Our FREE online training is available for you at ww.OKIE811.training. This course should take less than 2 hours to complete, and you will receive a certificate after passing the comprehensive test with an 80% or better.



Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO - Virtual Sessions



The Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO was digital again this year. OKIE811 provided 10 online training sessions during our Virtual Excavator Safety Expo in March. We covered topics

ranging from line locating to insurance claims processing. We had over 600 attendees of the webinars. If you missed them or would like to view them again you can access these session

recordings anytime by visiting our YouTube channel. Just search for "OKIE811".

OKIE811 Podcast

Rebrand: Digging Deep



Did you know OKIE811 has a podcast? We have recently rebranded The OKIE811 Podcast to Digging Deep. While the look may be a bit different, we are still dedicated to bringing you the same great content. Digging Deep is a monthly podcast where we discuss damage prevention, safe excavation, and general safety topics with experts. You can find it wherever you listen to podcasts, or our YouTube channel.



Volunteer With Us at the State Fair!

Oklahoma State Fair 2021 is on!! Come check out our booth and pick up some OKIE811 SWAG at the State Fair on September 16-26th, 2021!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! If you would like to volunteer to help us man the booth for a couple hours and gain FREE access to the fair, be sure to sign up to select your slot! Stay tuned for details



Join Us For 811 Virtual Safety Day

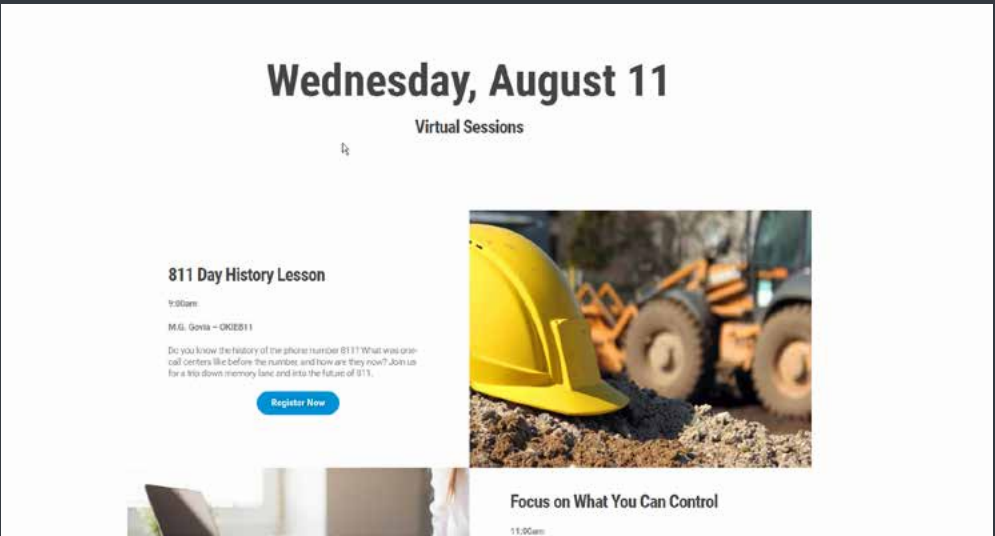
811 Day is a great day to promote Excavation Safety and Damage Prevention! We will have 3 exclusive webinar sessions available for you: History of 811, Focus on What You Can Control, and Multigenerational Diversity in the Workplace. Get registered for the training by visiting okexcavationsafety.com/811-virtual-safety-day



Also, we will be launching an 811 Pilsner! For the month of August, in select liquor stores, you may be able find OKIE811 branded cans featuring our very own limited brew.

Our 811 Pilsner has balanced malty sweetness and hop bitterness that is wonderfully complex, refreshing, and easy to drink. This crushable, light, and crisp beer is what you'll crave after a hard day's work.

Each can features a QR code! Be sure to scan the code and enter to win \$811 sponsored by Energy Worldnet



Back In-Person: Oklahoma Excavation Safety EXPO 2022

We are excited to announce the 2022 Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo will be held in person next year at Embassy Suites in Norman, OK! Join us for our Annual Meeting of Members, informative breakout sessions, training sessions for members, a fantastic Keynote Speaker, and a great opportunity for networking with others in the industry! We can't wait to see you there!

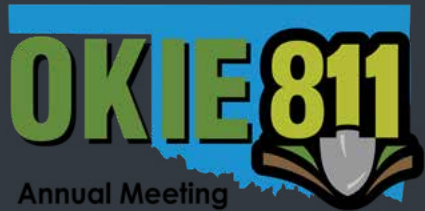


October Safety Day

Mark your calendars for October 27, 2021 to join us in Lawton for an in-person Safety Day! During this FREE event, we will have a mock line strike to show the importance of safe excavation around pipelines, as well as a demonstration of damage to electric lines. We will partner up to provide training to excavators and first responders. Stay tuned to our website www.okexcavationsafety.com for more details.

Annual Meeting

We are excited to be back in-person for our next Annual Meeting of Membership. The Annual Meeting will be held on March 9th at the Embassy Suites in Norman, OK. Be sure to register and we can't wait to see you there!



GIS PAST & PRESENT : INTRODUCTION TO THE OKIE811 SERVICE AREA EDITOR

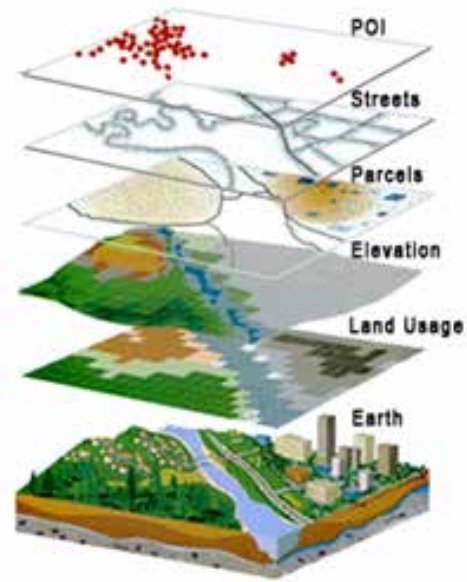
It is OKIE811's mission "To provide quality underground damage prevention services." Everyone plays an important role for upholding our mission & keeping the citizens in the great state of Oklahoma safe!

Years ago, our CSR's marked the dig site location on the computer map with a delta. A delta is a point, similar to a thumb tack marked on the computer map. The CSR would select and place the delta in the center of the quarter section marking the dig site. Paper maps, both large and small were the major source used to determine the excavator's dig site. After greeting the caller and getting their information, the CSR's search would begin the process by referencing the street index for the address and/or nearest intersection. Not bad..., considering what it took for CSR's to locate rural dig sites. CSR's would often search rural dig sites by using a large machine called a 'Microfiche Machine'. This task was

time consuming and very tedious. As the CSR would arise from their desk, you would hear them say with great enthusiasm (LOL), "I have to Go Fish!" Everyone knew what that meant.

Registered facilities are referred to as Service areas. During the former "CallOkie before you Dig" days, grid registration was the only mapping source used to register our member's facilities. Member Company's One-Call Representative would submit the county, range, township, meridian, section, and quarter section of their service areas/facilities. This information would generate a list of members registered in a particular grid and notify them in advance for digging taking place near their underground facilities.

Technology has come a long way since then. Advances in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) reveal exciting possibilities for managing GIS data. OKIE811 uses GIS to maintain our



member's service areas, as well as the base layers for the Contact Center's use of mapping that is utilized for processing locate requests. Our CSR'S mark the excavator's dig site with a sophisticated GIS mapping program called

GeoCall that continues to advance and get better with time. With this technology in place, it is not uncommon for our CSR'S to process



Similar to the Microfiche Machine used at OKIE811

more than 4,000 tickets daily.

The accepted mapping formats has also grown over the years. Our members now can submit electronic files (shapefiles, kmz/kml files, gps coordinates, etc.), consisting of polygons, buffered points and lines for their mapping. Accurate base data helps improves ticket handling time and accuracy of locate request keeping excavators, neighbors/bystanders, and facilities safe. As a result, members receive more accurate tickets for their service areas and a reduction in their annual billing.

Until now, there was a period of 3-5 business days to process a submission and push it into our live production system. Those changes were not viewable in Member Service Area Mapping (MSAM) until after 6am the following day. Members submitted their mapping files via different forms and attached files to emails.

These processes, outside of using MSAM, will still be available to our members. However, we are excited to announce a new efficient way to submit and manage service areas with OKIE811.

Present and into the future!

We are switching to a new web application for updating service areas/mapping for all OKIE811 members. The name of the web application is called the 'Service Area Editor' aka SAE. The new release of the SAE is available now.

What are some key elements of the SAE?

- The SAE allows the user to login after they receive the publication notice to verify that the changes were published, immediately.

- The SAE allows you to view, edit/submit updates, add notes, view history of previous updates, and see active sessions for codes.

- Ability to edit (add/remove) service areas by drawing on the SAE map.

- SAE allows you to upload your current service areas as a full replacement or merge the upload with your existing areas.

- The SAE accepts GeoJSON, zipped SHP (all SHP components), KML, and JSON file types.

- Ability to download a GeoJSON file of your current or published service areas.

- User friendly map.

- Several drawing tools available

- Multiple base layers to use when geo-referencing an area

- Ability to save work and come back later to complete an update

- You make changes to a working (current) copy of your service areas, not affecting your live published areas until the changes are submitted and approved.

Our GIS Team will review mapping updates and once approved, the changes will be published into our production system (M-F) less than the normal processing time of three to five business days and in most cases, same day.

To learn more or register to use the SAE, go to gis.okie811.org

Service Area Editor/SAE will replace Member Service Area Mapping aka MSAM - Effective

Thursday, September 30th, 2021, the MSAM online program will be deactivated.

Accurate GIS mapping helps keep underground facilities, community, and excavators safe. We encourage our members to update their service area(s) as often as needed. It is essential that members verify any updates to their service area(s) and participate in our Member Services Department Annual Verification. This is an important part of OKIE811 membership. It is recommended that members review their service area(s) frequently to ensure the most up to date information is provided. This allows us to keep record of area(s) in which you operate so we can accurately distribute locate tickets.

This is an exciting time for the GIS community! People are becoming increasingly more familiar with the term GIS. We look forward to continued growth in GIS Technology for keeping Oklahoma citizens and our members facilities safe!

Check out these links for an introduction into the SAE:

- Service Area Map Management Manual

- "How to" video for the Service Area Editor

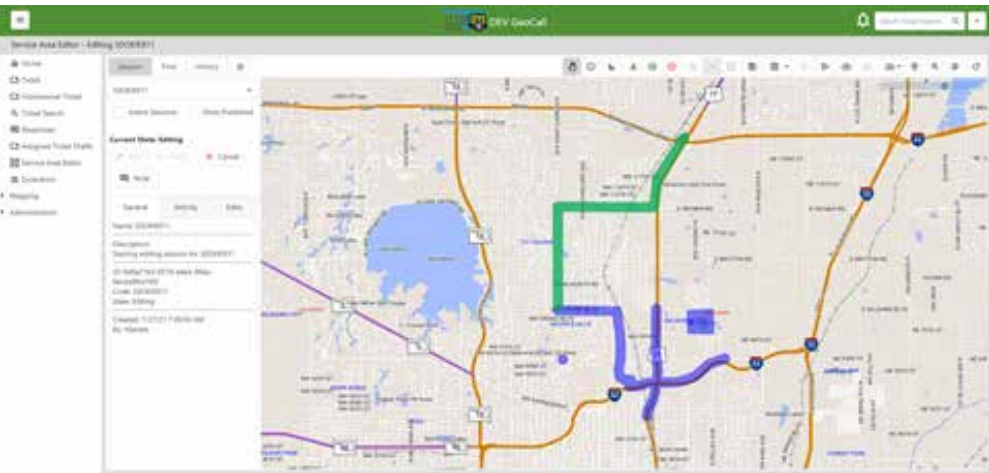
Want to manage your service areas in Google Earth and then upload to the SAE? Check out these links to get started:

- Introduction to Google Earth

- Draw and Measure

- OKIE811 Google Earth Webinar

For any GIS related questions please contact us at gis@okie811.org.



Scope of Work

The Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act includes limits to the scope of work per each locate request. The law states: “...the extent, not to exceed five hundred (500) linear feet in incorporated areas or one linear mile in unincorporated areas, of the proposed work.”

The type of work that is most often affected by the scope of work limits is linear type work. Linear work usually includes a single continuous path of excavation, from beginning to ending point. This path can go through multiple addresses, properties, blocks or miles. Examples of linear work are: Water/Sewer/Gas Main line work, road construction, sidewalk work, etc. Helpful Hints:

- Always provide physical starting point/stopping points, such as an intersection or address, when possible.
- Include what side of the road, alley, or what easement the work is taking place on/in.
- When working multiple blocks in incorporated areas that are less than 500ft in length, separate the locate request by each block.
- When working multiple blocks in incorporated areas that are more than 500ft in length, divide into up to 500ft segments. These types of locate requests can be processed either by in-



structions describing each up to 500ft segment or by address ranges within a 500ft segment. For paths of excavation limited to one single property, not including a continuous path of excavation going through multiple addresses/properties, create separate locate requests for each address or location. Examples of work taking place that would require separate locate requests would be sprinkler system installs, water meter work, water/sewer/gas service line work, etc. This includes when working at mul-

tiples addresses next door to each other when a single path of excavation does not span across each property.

‘Incorporated’ is within city/town limits. ‘Unincorporated’ is rural/outside city or town limits. You can easily view these limits on the OKIE811 Portal Map. The darker shaded area is ‘Incorporated’ and lighter shaded area is ‘Unincorporated’.



Law Updates: Effective No Later Than November 1, 2021

Changes to areas of the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act will be effective no later than November 1, 2021.

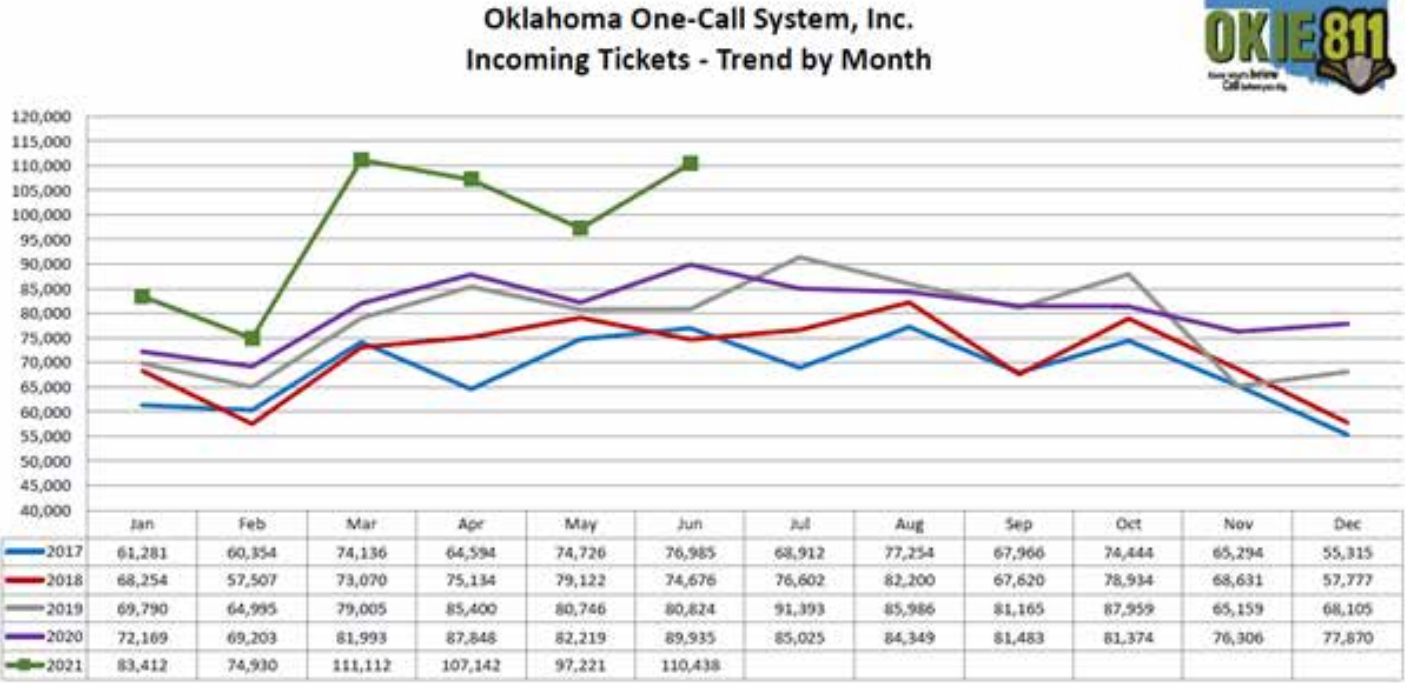
Here’s a summary of what changes to look for:

- 14 Calendar Day Life of a Ticket
- Mandatory Positive Response (currently available as elective)

- State of Emergency Declaration
- Required Damage Reporting to OKIE811 (currently available as elective)
- Better Defined Excavator Responsibilities Around Hazardous Pipelines
- Excavator abuse/misuse of Update Tickets when no excavation is taking place

- Excavator abuse/misuse of Emergency Tickets

For more information concerning the law updates, please check out the resources on our YouTube channel, or look for webinar sessions to join. If needed, you can always contact us at Education@OKIE811.org with your questions.



OKIE811 Ticket Trends

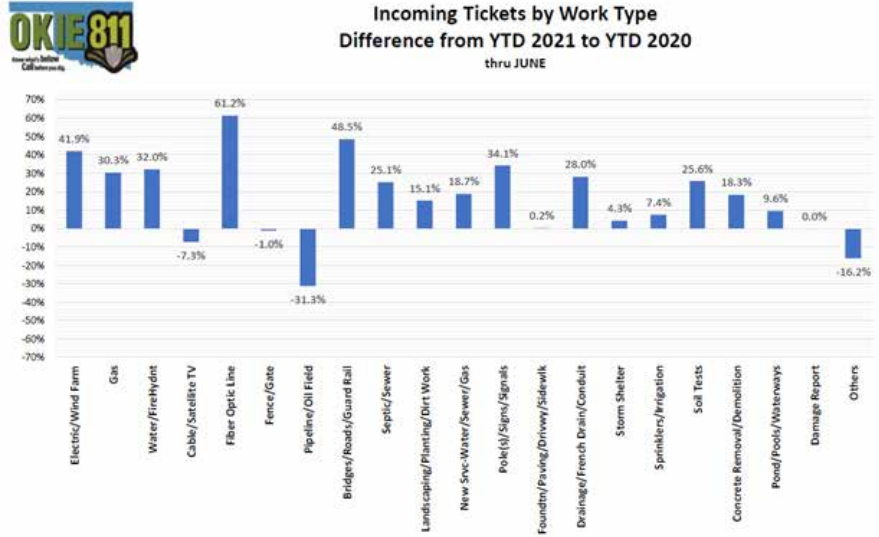
What’s Trending!
The first half of 2021 has seen a strong increase in excavation in Oklahoma and an even bigger increase in locate request volume. Updates to the Oklahoma Underground Facilities

Damage Prevention Act, put in place on November 1st, 2020, limited the scope of each ticket to 500 linear feet in incorporated areas and one linear mile in unincorporated areas. An increase of 8.95% is directly attributable to the scope

limitations while another 11.95% increase is due to increased excavation activity. This has led to many new records and an overall increase of 20.9% through June.

The reasons for excavation in Oklahoma are as diverse as ever but we’ve seen large increases in Electric/Windfarm, Fiber Optic, and Bridge/Road work year over year.

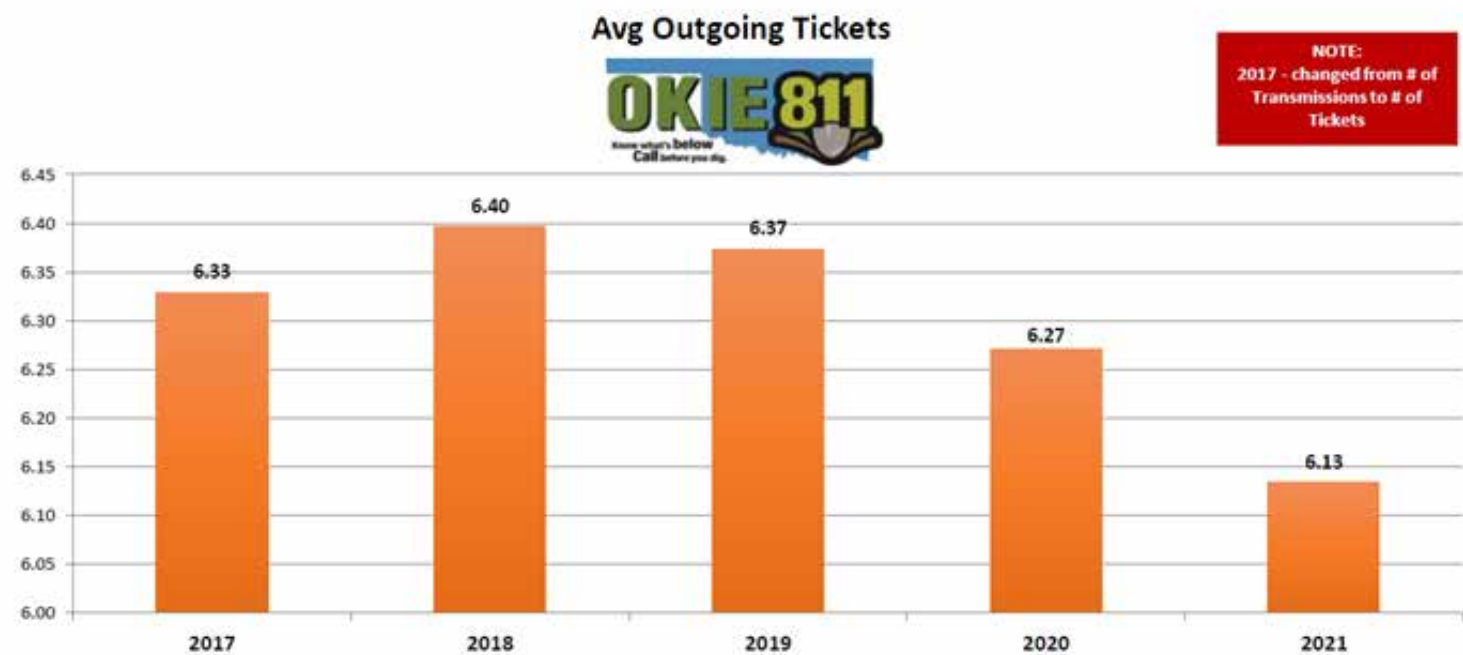
As volume has increased so has the quality of mapping data. As underground facility owners and operators improve the maps they provide to OKIE811, waste is cut down by sending less unnecessary tickets for assets that aren’t in conflict with the excavation site. Despite more lines going into the ground, we’ve seen a steady reduction in the facilities per ticket.



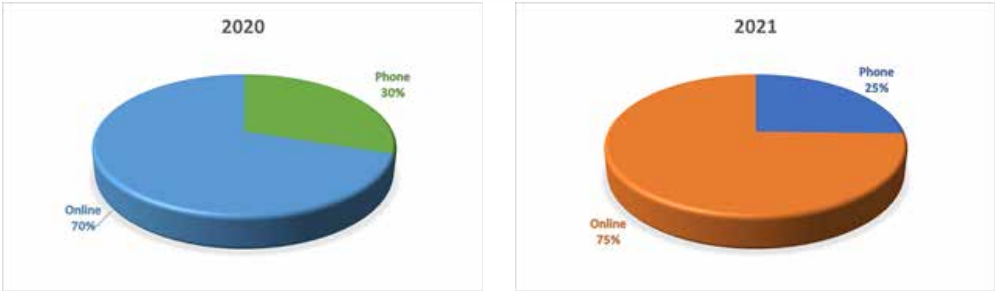
Contact Us!

For any questions about your OKIE Membership and the services available, please contact Member Services at: MemberServices@okie811.org

For any questions about your OKIE811 Membership Account or Invoice, please contact Member Billing at: MemberBilling@okie811.org



Don't wait on hold, click before you dig instead. Locate requests submitted online simplify and speed up the process for all parties. So far in 2021 more excavators are taking advantage of our online ticket submission tools than ever!



OKIE811 Webinars

Explore New Topics for Members and Excavators

OKIE811 is excited to present you with some exciting new webinars to look forward to. These webinars are presented by different staff members from different department that are the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) of the information they are presenting. They cover a wide variety of topics for both excavators as well as members and it is an excellent opportunity to interact with us live and have your questions answered. If you are unable to attend a webinar, you may go view the recording anytime on our webinar channel. Here is a full list of upcoming webinars.



AUGUST TRAININGS
August 4
OUFDPA Updates for Excavators
August 18
How Law Changes Will Impact Members

SEPTEMBER TRAININGS
September 1
OKIE811 Positive Response
September 15
Register for Member Portal



Put 811 at the top of your summer to-do list

Planning any outdoor digging projects this summer? Always call 811 beforehand to protect underground utilities and keep you and your family safe.

Call 811 or visit Call811.com before digging.



August 11 is 811 Day

Be sure to call and get underground lines marked before every digging project!