

SUMMER 2026



What's Inside

- Record Ticket Volume & Excavation Readiness
- QA Goes from 20% to 100% with Skapa
- A Record-Breaking Verification Campaign
- Expo, Safety Days & a Keynote Worth Repeating
- Save the Date: Two Major Events in 2027

OKIE811 Major Accomplishments — Q1 & Q2 2026



By Susan Bohl
Executive Director

2026 has been exceptionally busy so far, and the first half of the year brought several major initiatives and improvements across OKIE811. While our teams continued supporting growing excavation activity statewide, we also completed important projects designed to improve excavation readiness, ticket quality, member communication, education and system efficiency.

- Began providing each underground facility operator with their company's **"Excavation Readiness Report"** informing them of the impact to dig sites getting located before the excavation start date.
- Implemented **validations requiring excavators to provide clearer descriptions** of proposed work areas, rather than broad requests such as "all adjoining easements" or "both sides of the fence." This is intended to reduce overmarking by locators and help them complete all locate requests more efficiently and on time.
- Enabled underground facility operators to **submit damage reports by email** to our phone queue, allowing agents to enter the reports into our ticket management system.
- Implemented a **new Learning Management System** to house our 811 Certification Program and

now have the certification available in both English and Spanish. For access, go to okie811.org/learning-hub. Additionally, we now have the Excavator Guide available in Spanish. For access to digital Excavator Guides, go to okie811.org/excavators or you can email Education@okie811.org for hard copies.

There are many other projects we completed in the first half of this year which have kept everyone on their toes! I'm super proud of the team at OKIE811 and the work we're doing. The team is becoming more resilient when it comes to change and we are continuously looking for ways to work smarter, not harder.

A Strong First Half

Excavation Readiness Reports, clearer work-area validations, email damage reporting and a new Learning Management System are just a few of the initiatives completed during the first half of 2026.

A strong first half - and the systems to keep up with it.

Excavation Readiness Reports, clearer work-area validations, email damage reporting, and a new Learning Management System.
okie811.org



Oklahoma's Broadband Rollout: Managing the Surge in Excavation Activity

Fiber optic installation. Fiber work accounted for 21% of Oklahoma locate requests through July.



By Susan Bohl
Executive Director

\$1.4B

Total broadband investment across three federal programs

100k+

Homes and businesses to be connected

77

Counties receiving at least one project

90%

Of connections outside the OKC and Tulsa metros

The increase in excavation activity across Oklahoma can be seen through the increase in locate requests being received here at OKIE811. Through the end of July, we processed **836,314 inbound locate requests**, a **7.8% increase over 2025**. Twenty-one percent of these locate requests were for fiber optic work.

The [Oklahoma Broadband Office](#) (OBO) reports that they are now administering three federal programs to expand broadband service throughout the state. The trio of programs will connect more than 100,000 homes and businesses with a total investment of \$1.4 billion, including \$941 million in grants and \$460 million in matching funds from the companies receiving the awards.

More than 70% of locations served by OBO programs will receive fiber optic connection, 20% will be connected via fixed wireless service and less than 10% will receive low earth orbit satellite connectivity.

Programs are not isolated to certain regions in Oklahoma — they will impact everyone. All 77 counties will receive at least one project. Over 90% of the connections are happening outside of the OKC and Tulsa metros.

More Activity, More Risk

As a result of this extra excavation activity happening across Oklahoma, we are hearing of more damage to underground lines. If an excavation company does not plan their work before excavating, they do not have lines located before digging, and they do not dig safely, damages are more likely to occur. It is happening across the United States.

In June 2026, there were two gas explosions in Ohio that destroyed multiple homes in prominent neighborhoods. There was also a gas explosion in the Dallas, Texas area where three people lost their lives and property damage was extensive.

Damage is preventable

When excavation professionals take the time to get educated about the 811 laws in each state, when they take the time to plan their work, and when they use the 811 system responsibly, damage can be avoided.

To learn more about safe excavation and 811 training offerings, please email us at Education@okie811.org or go to our website at www.okie811.org for online resources.

Oklahoma Is Digging More Than Ever

836,314 locate requests through July — the most ever recorded.



By **Jerrell Welch**
Sr. Director of Operations

836,314

Locate requests, Jan–Jul 2026
▲ 7.8% vs. 2025

4.37 M

Notices sent to facility operators
▲ 2.4% vs. 2025

119,473

Requests per month, on average
▲ 8.1% vs. 2025

82%

Of requests come from contractors
75% are filed online

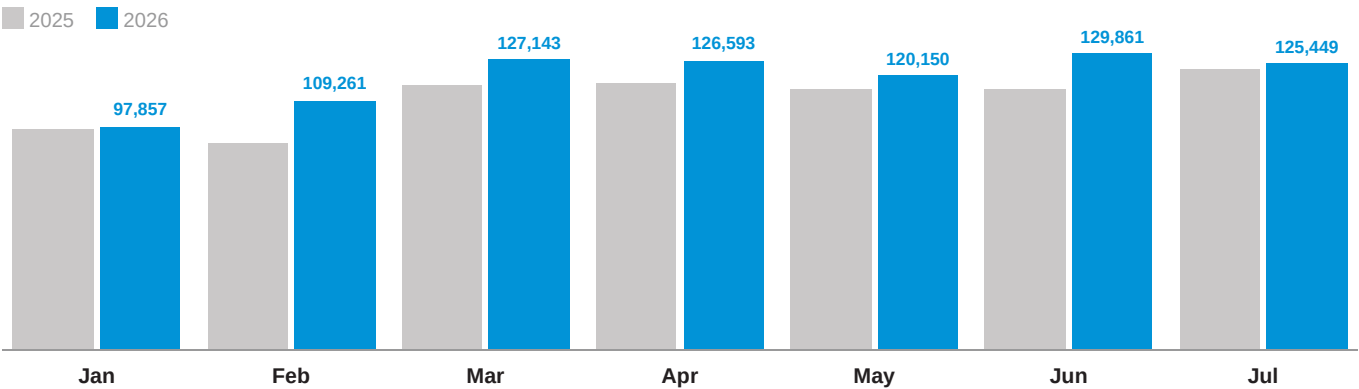
Oklahoma is busy. From January through July, people asked for buried lines to be marked 836,314 times. That is the most ever. It is 7.8% more than last year.

This year OKIE811 sent out **4,370,181** of those notices. That is about five notices for every one request.

2026 beat 2025 in all seven months.

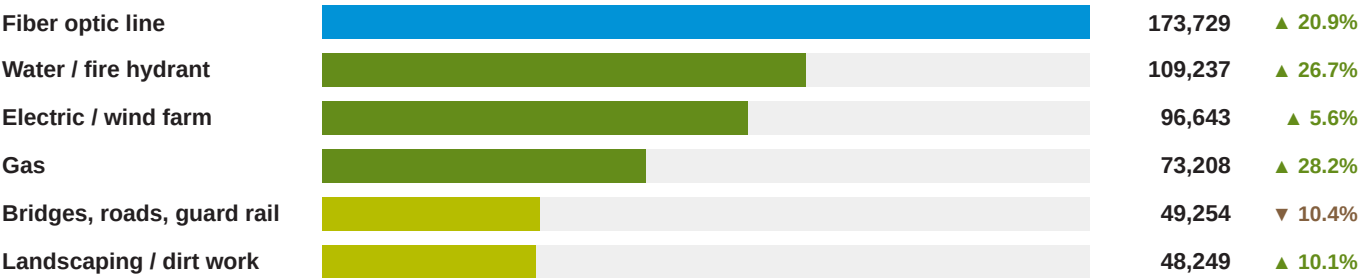
June was the busiest month ever recorded: 129,861 requests. That is more than 4,300 requests a day!

Busier Every Single Month



Incoming locate requests by month.

What Are People Digging For?



Top six work types, Jan–Jul 2026, with the change from the same months in 2025.

Good News: The Wait Is Getting Shorter

Nearly 97,000 more jobs were responded to on time this year YTD than last year.

OKIE811 has put a strong focus on Excavation Readiness in 2026. So what is “Excavation Ready”?

Excavation Ready means that all notified operators on a request have responded indicating the excavator may begin on the work-to-begin date requested.

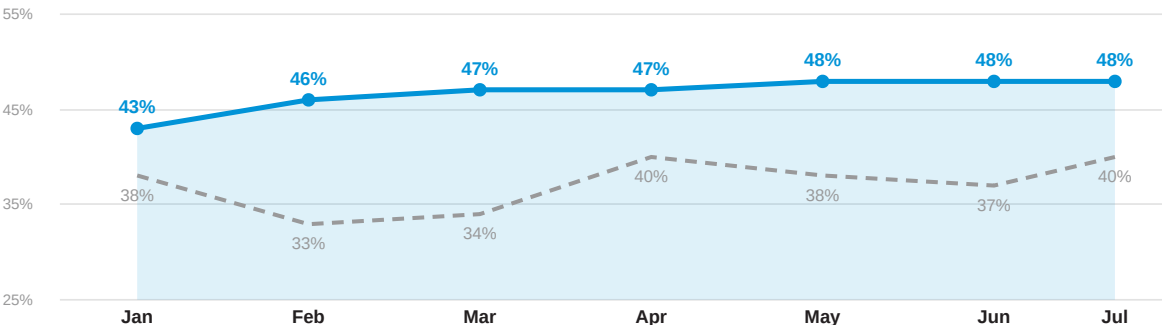
Every month this year has been an improvement over 2025 even with record ticket volume.

Still, more than half of all jobs are not ready on time.

413,575 jobs were late this year. Late marks cost time and money. They also make it more likely that someone hits a buried line.

The best month was May. Almost half of all jobs, **48.2%**, were ready when the excavator planned to start.

Excavation Readiness: 2026 vs. 2025



Share of locate requests marked on time each month. Source: OKIE811 statewide excavation readiness data, Jan–Jul 2026.

Where It Works Best — And Worst

Some places do much better than others. These are counties with at least 5,000 jobs this year.

BEST — READY ON TIME			HARDEST HIT BY DELAYS		
MUSKOGEE		64.7%	MARSHALL		15.5%
CANADIAN		63.9%	CHEROKEE		25.4%
CARTER		63.2%	MAYES		26.4%
CLEVELAND		62.0%	KAY		28.5%
POTTAWATOMIE		61.8%	LE FLORE		32.1%

Oklahoma County, the state's second busiest, was ready 48.4% of the time. Tulsa County, the busiest, was ready 37.0% of the time.

From 20% to 100%: How Skapa Is Transforming Quality Assurance at OKIE811



By Megan Jester
QA & AI Support Supervisor



For over a year, our team has been quietly building toward a big change in how we do quality assurance - and since going live in October 2025, that change has completely reshaped the way we catch and correct errors. At the end of the day, ticket accuracy isn't just a numbers game - it's about damage prevention. Every ticket we get right is a dig site marked correctly, a utility line protected, and a potential safety incident avoided before it ever happens.

The Problem We Set Out to Fix

Before Skapa, our QA team could only manually review about 20% of tickets. With a limited team and a large volume of agent and excavator submitted tickets coming in every day, that sample size meant a lot of errors simply slipped through unnoticed. Worse, when we did catch something, it often wasn't until the next business day - long after the ticket had already been processed.

Enter Skapa

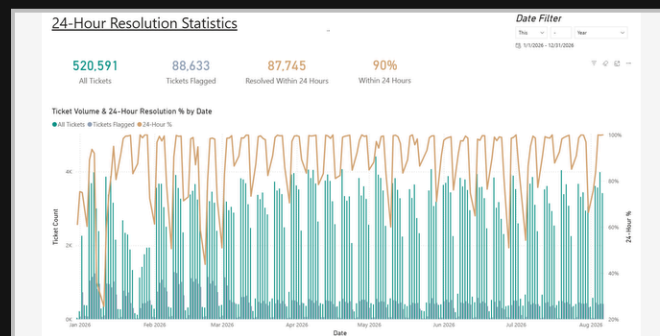
Over a year ago, we partnered with the Skapa team to build an AI-powered auditing tool designed to do what our small QA team physically couldn't: review every single ticket. Together, we developed a combination of:

- **Custom rules** built specifically around our processes and standards
- **AI-driven rules** that catch patterns and issues a static rule set might miss
- **Random audits** layered on top for an extra safety net

The result is a system that now audits 100% of agent and excavator submitted tickets - a five-fold increase in coverage from where we started. That's not just a QA milestone - it's a direct investment in damage prevention. When every ticket gets checked, incorrect locates and missed information are caught before they can turn into a struck line or a safety incident in the field.

What This Means in Practice

Skapa runs audits every 15 minutes. When an issue is flagged, it's routed straight to our QA department, who calls the submitter, provides education, and gets the ticket corrected - fast.



24-hour resolution statistics from the Skapa dashboard.

99.7% safe tickets | 90% checked within 24 hours
82% of errors caught and resolved the same day

That difference matters. Instead of finding out about an error days later, agents get feedback while the ticket is still fresh, which means faster corrections and fewer repeated mistakes.

Why This Is a Win for Everyone

Moving to 100% ticket coverage hasn't just improved our error-catching - it's changed how our QA team spends its time. Rather than manually combing through a limited sample and hoping it's representative, our team can now focus on what actually matters: calling agents and excavators, coaching them through issues, and fixing errors. The heavy lifting of finding those errors is handled by Skapa, freeing up our people to do the human part of the job - the part that actually makes a difference.

The move from a 20% sample to 100% coverage represents a real shift in how seriously we can take quality across every single ticket that comes through our system, not just the ones we happened to pull for review.

Have questions about how Skapa audits work or want to know more about the rules behind it? Reach out to the QA team.

Common Locate Request Mistakes — And How to Avoid Them

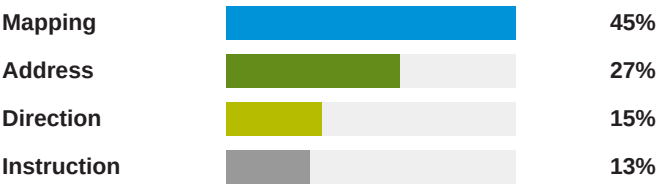


By Megan Jester
QA & AI Support Supervisor

Our QA data doesn't just tell us *how many* tickets have errors — it tells us exactly *where* those errors are coming from. And once we started digging into the numbers (pun intended), a clear pattern emerged: most of our direct submission safety errors trace back to just a couple of root causes. Here's what the data shows, and what you can do to help drive those numbers down.

Where the Errors Are Happening

SAFETY ERRORS BY TYPE



LEADING ROOT CAUSES



Together, these two issues account for a third of all root causes — which means a lot of our errors are preventable with just a little extra care at submission.

Why Mapping Accuracy Matters So Much

The excavator is required to draw the accurate and complete excavation path — exactly as described in the locate request — on the OKIE811 Excavator Portal map. That drawing is what determines **which facility operators get notified** on the ticket.

If the drawing is inaccurate or incomplete, the wrong facility operators may get notified, which can lead to real damages and accidents. Even a slight discrepancy in the marked area can mean an operator who should have been notified never gets the ticket. The drawing has to fully encompass the entire marking instructions and locate area described on the ticket — not just the general vicinity.

Tip: use Auto Suggest

Search by address, street, or intersection on the portal. The map will jump straight to your selected result (results may span multiple towns, cities, or counties, so double-check you've picked the right one). Selecting an address auto-parses it into the work site address fields and auto-marks it on the map — but you'll still want to confirm the marking covers the *entire* dig site and locate instructions, not just the pinned point.

Need more help with the portal? We offer [excavator tools and tutorials](#), YouTube webinars, and one-on-one guided training if you'd prefer a walkthrough.

Almost half of all safety errors trace back to how the area is mapped.

Portal tutorials, excavator tools and one-on-one guided training are all available.
Education@okie811.org

Excavator Preparation & Responsibility



By Megan Jester
QA & AI Support Supervisor

A few reminders to help keep every ticket accurate from the start.

- **Get to know the work site prior to contacting OKIE811** — get the address, directions, and excavation path description, and verify any access issues.
- **White line the excavation area** — mark the outer limits, route, or perimeter of the proposed excavation area with white paint, flags, or stakes.
- **Establish a field contact** — this person must have actual knowledge of the worksite and be able to answer questions about the excavation project.
- **Determine your work start date & time** — plan future excavation with a minimum 3 business day notice and a maximum 10 business day notice.
- **Contact OKIE811** — wait the required time before beginning work.
- **Confirm before digging** — excavators are required to confirm Positive Response has been received

from each member listed on the ticket, by checking OKIE811 Positive Response and checking the site for markings.

- **Respect the tolerance zone** — a strip of land two (2) feet on either side of the facility, plus the width of the facility itself.

The Bottom Line

Almost half of our safety errors trace back to how the area is mapped, and nearly a quarter of all errors happen simply because the wrong area was marked. A few extra minutes double-checking the drawn area, the address, and the excavation path before submitting a ticket can make the difference between the right facility operators being notified — or not. Every accurate ticket is one more step toward keeping crews, the public, and underground infrastructure safe.



Every accurate ticket is a dig site marked correctly and a line protected.

Questions about a locate request, the Excavator Portal, or one-on-one guided training?

Education@okie811.org

Annual Verification Campaign Sets a New Record

A record 67.5% of members verified this year — and a rebuilt, one-click process is a big reason why.



By the OKIE811 Member Services Team

Jan Jenkins · Troy Daniels · Dina Palmer · Eva Donahue

67.5%

Verified

931 of 1,379 members

+28.6

Point jump vs. 2025

38.9% → 67.5%

139

First-time Certificates of Good Standing

1,925

Dispatch codes

342 update forms

First, a quick refresher. **Annual Membership Verification** is how OKIE811 members confirm each year that the information we have on file is still accurate: their contacts, dispatch codes, outputs, positive response, and mapping. That record is what determines which members we notify when someone requests a locate before digging, so the right crews are sent to mark their underground lines. When it's current, those notifications reach the right members the first time; when it's outdated, they can be missed or misrouted, and that's where risk to underground facilities and to the people digging near them creeps in. Verifying is a short annual step that keeps Oklahoma's damage prevention system accurate, and it's the basis for a member's Certificate of Good Standing.

This year's campaign wrapped up as our strongest ever. When the books closed on July 1st, **931 of our 1,379 members, or 67.5%**, had verified their information and earned a Certificate of Good Standing. That is a 28.6-point jump over the 38.9% we posted in 2025, and it clears every campaign on record: from 2022 through 2025, participation never rose above 46.1%. In a single cycle, roughly two-thirds of the membership came to the table.

Numbers like that don't move on their own. Behind the record is a campaign we rebuilt from the member's point of view, and the results suggest the new approach is doing exactly what we hoped.

What Changed This Year

For years, verifying meant logging into the member portal, printing your record, comparing it section by

section, and then filling out either a verification form or a more complicated change form, with mapping details living in a separate portal entirely. It worked, but it asked a lot, and that friction slowed responses and delayed certificates.

This year we put everything the member needs into a single branded email. Each member received their full record, laid out right in the message: contacts, outputs, positive response, the last mapping-update date, and now the billing contact. From there:

- If everything looked correct, one click on **Verify & Confirm** recorded the verification and the Certificate of Good Standing was issued, with no portal login required.
- If something needed updating, members clicked the **Request Changes** link, which opened a simplified change form already tied to their record and dispatch code — or they could simply reply to the email with the changes.
- Members who hadn't responded received reminders on a set cadence, so no one was left behind by a missed message.

The payoff shows up across the board: 342 dispatch change forms came in to fine-tune existing configurations across our 1,925 active dispatch codes, and 139 members earned a Certificate of Good Standing for the very first time. Just as encouraging, **355 verifications came from members whose last certificate predated 2025** — lapsed members we brought back into good standing.

About the Certificate of Good Standing

ANNUAL VERIFICATION CAMPAIGN, CONTINUED

How Participation Broke Down

FACILITY TYPE	VERIFIED	RATE
Pipeline	286 of 404	71%
Rural Water District	199 of 282	71%
Electric Co-op	20 of 29	69%
Municipality	252 of 374	67%
Other	31 of 48	65%
Telecommunications	66 of 104	63%
Master Meter	39 of 65	60%
Electric Power	27 of 63	43%

Strong results reached nearly every corner of the membership. Pipeline and Rural Water District members led the way at 71%, with Electric Co-ops and Municipalities close behind. Electric Power remains our clear opportunity for next year at 43%.

A Certificate of Good Standing reflects that a member has verified all of their dispatch codes and kept their membership fees current. Keeping these up to date is what allows OKIE811 to stand behind the accuracy of every member record.

We encourage members to update their membership whenever changes occur instead of waiting for the next annual verification campaign. This includes updates to contacts, dispatch codes, and mapping. Keeping your information up to date ensures your records remain

accurate and helps maintain reliable locate notifications throughout the year.

Beyond keeping your records accurate, the certificate offers your organization several practical benefits:

- Documentation for external use, helpful when renewing specific grants, licenses, or permits.
- Confirms that your organization has met OKIE811 membership requirements.
- States that your organization is a registered member in good standing with Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc., DBA OKIE811, and is valid for up to one year from the issue date.

Looking Ahead

452 members, about a third of the membership, have not yet verified. Most are recent lapses rather than long-term non-participants; Municipality, Pipeline, and Rural Water members account for roughly 71% of those still outstanding.

Haven't verified yet?

Check your inbox for your verification email — confirming your record takes just a click. If you can't find it or need a new one sent, contact Member Services at memberservices@okie811.org and we'll get one back to you.

And to every member who verified this year: thank you. Accurate records are the foundation of safe digging across Oklahoma, and you helped us build the most complete picture we've ever had.

USERS

RESPONSE FACILITIES

OP-Member.Services, OP-GIS.Team

Electric

Request Chang for OKIE811

Reviewed everything? Confirm your membership verification below.

✓ Everything Looks Good

Accurate records are the foundation of safe digging across Oklahoma.

Update contacts, dispatch codes and mapping any time — you do not have to wait for the annual campaign.

memberservices@okie811.org



Safety in Action: A Strong Expo, Statewide Reach and a Keynote We're Still Talking About

Hands-on utility line locating — one of the pre-Expo workshops offered in 2026.



By Hailey Manning
Education & Outreach Manager

From a packed Expo in Oklahoma City to Safety Days held across the state, online and in Spanish, 2026 has already been a busy year for OKIE811 Education & Outreach.

More importantly, it has been an impactful one. Excavators, utility professionals, municipal employees, contractors and safety leaders have come together to learn, share ideas and strengthen Oklahoma's damage prevention community.

A Big Two Days in Oklahoma City

The 2026 Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo was held April 1-2 at MetroTech's Springlake Campus. Approximately 230 people attended the Expo, and about 100 participated in OKIE811's Annual Meeting of the Membership. Many attended both events.

The event also featured more than 25 vendors and 12 breakout sessions covering technical, compliance, safety and leadership topics. Pre-Expo workshops offered training in Competent Person Certification, utility line locating, GIS and OKIE811 Certification.

Attendees had opportunities to connect with industry experts, explore new tools and resources, and take practical information back to their companies and crews.



More than 25 vendors filled the exhibitor space at the 2026 Expo.

A Keynote That Raised the Bar

Keynote speaker Garrison Wynn was one of the clear highlights of the event. Blending humor, real-world experience and practical insight, Wynn delivered a memorable message about influencing safety, improving communication and creating a culture in which people take responsibility for protecting themselves and those around them.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Several attendees identified the keynote as the most valuable part of the event, and one survey response said:

"The speaker you chose this year was probably the best I've heard at your annual meetings. Great choice!"

— 2026 Expo attendee survey

We agree. Garrison Wynn set the bar extremely high!

Safety in Action, continued



By Hailey Manning
Education & Outreach Manager

1,475

Session attendances across seven Safety Days through July

9,040

Education touchpoints as of July 31
120.5% of the annual goal

7,500

2026 annual education goal
Surpassed in June

Taking Safety Education Across Oklahoma

The momentum continued through OKIE811's 2026 Safety Day series. The year began with a Virtual Safety Day in January, followed by in-person programs in Ardmore, Enid, Lawton and Ada. July included another Virtual Safety Day and a Spanish-language Safety Day in Oklahoma City.

The July event continued the Spanish Safety Day program launched with OKIE811's first fully immersive Spanish Safety Day in October 2025. This year's Oklahoma City program generated 100 session attendances across five courses, including 811 Certification, line locating, pipeline safety, excavation and trenching safety, and an OSHA overview.

Altogether, the seven Safety Days held through July generated **1,475 session attendances**. Because many participants attended multiple courses, this figure reflects attendance by session rather than the number of individual attendees.

Ada led the in-person events with 302 session attendances, followed by Enid with 261. Lawton maintained remarkably consistent participation throughout the full-day agenda, with very little drop-off between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Virtual education also demonstrated its value. The January Virtual Safety Day generated 251 session attendances across four programs, while the July event added another 185. Attendance during the July event increased as the day progressed, a reversal of the usual pattern for all-day training and an encouraging sign for the virtual format.



Enid Safety Day drew 261 session attendances — second only to Ada among the 2026 in-person events.

We Asked, and Attendees Answered

Attendee feedback gave us plenty to celebrate and a helpful list of ideas for the future. Participants asked for more hands-on field training, advanced locating techniques, regulatory updates, technology and GIS education, and case studies based on actual incidents.

They also encouraged us to continue offering strong keynote speakers, practical breakout sessions and opportunities to connect with exhibitors and industry peers.

Attendee feedback will help guide future session planning and improvements to the overall event experience.

None of this would be possible without the instructors, speakers, partners, sponsors, exhibitors and attendees who continue to invest their time and expertise in excavation safety and damage prevention.

We are proud of what was accomplished through July and look forward to using what we have learned to make each future Safety Day, training program and Expo even stronger.

Still to Come in 2026

UPCOMING SAFETY DAYS & TRAINING

The 2026 Safety Day series was not finished at the close of July. Upcoming events included Tulsa Safety Day on August 12 and Elk City Safety Day on September 16, along with another Spanish-language Safety Day planned for Tulsa later in the year.

As of July 31, OKIE811 had recorded **9,040 education touchpoints**, reaching 120.5% of the 2026 annual education goal of 7,500. In other words, we did not merely meet the goal. We waved as we passed it.

Tulsa Safety Day

August 12th

Tulsa Tech - Lemley Memorial Campus



Sessions Include

-  OKIE811 Certification Training
-  Field Perspective of a Line Locator
-  Excavation & Trenching Safety
-  Confined Spaces Safety
-  OCC Damage Prevention Talk

Perks Include

-  OKIE811 Excavator Certification
-  Free Lunch
-  Up to 8 Hours of DEQ Credit
-  Door Prizes and Swag



www.okexcavationsafety.com

Register for any 2026 Safety Day at www.okexcavationsafety.com.

Spanish Safety Day — Tulsa

Later in 2026

Date and venue to be announced

Building on the OKC program, another Spanish-language Safe Excavation Day is planned for Tulsa. Watch okie811.org and our social channels for dates and registration.

Seven Safety Days down. More still to come.

Registration, agendas and continuing-education details for every 2026 event.

okexcavationsafety.com

Education@okie811.org

A Smarter Way to Learn: OKIE811 Certification Goes In-House



By Hailey Manning
Education & Outreach Manager

Not everyone can step away from the field for a full day of training, and not everyone learns best in a classroom. Many excavators and crew members would rather complete professional development on their own schedule and at their own pace.

That is where OKIE811's updated learning management system, or LMS, comes in.

The online platform makes excavation safety education easier to access while giving OKIE811 greater control over course content, learner support, reporting and future improvements. After extensive testing and refinement, the LMS was fully transitioned in-house in early 2026, reducing reliance on outside vendors and giving our team a much clearer view of participation and certification activity.

Training That Works Around Your Schedule

The self-paced OKIE811 Certification course takes approximately 90 minutes to complete and is divided into 10 easy-to-follow modules. Topics include Oklahoma excavation law, the 811 notification process, utility markings, excavator responsibilities and damage prevention best practices.

Participants complete a 25-question assessment at the end of the course and must score at least 80% to earn

their certificate.

Because the course is online, participants can complete it when and where it works best for them. That may be at the office, at home or between projects. All that is needed is a reliable internet connection and a quiet place to focus.

DON'T HIT WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE.
OKIE811 CERTIFICATION COURSE
FOR CONTRACTORS, EXCAVATORS, LANDSCAPERS.

FREE
90-MINUTE ONLINE TRAINING
NO COST. NO CATCH.

90 MINUTES short, focused & self-paced
100% ONLINE start anytime, learn anywhere
VALID FOR 1 YEAR stay compliant year-round
ALWAYS FREE no cost, no catch, just safety.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- WHEN TO CALL 811**
Know when to call and when it's too early or too late.
- READ MARKINGS ON-SITE**
Learn how to read utility markings and what they mean.
- OKLAHOMA LAW BASICS**
Understand Oklahoma's excavation laws and your responsibilities.
- BEFORE, DURING & AFTER DIGGING**
Follow best practices every step of the way.

PREVENT DAMAGE. PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.

- AVOID COSTLY HITS**
Utility strikes can cost thousands in repairs and delays.
- AVOID FINES & DELAYS**
Non-compliance can lead to serious fines and legal trouble.
- KEEP PEOPLE SAFE**
Protect yourself, your crew, and your community.
- BUILD A REPUTATION**
Show you take safety and compliance seriously on every job.

START IN 2 MINUTES
[OKIE811.ORG/LEARNING-HUB](https://okie811.org/learning-hub)

OKIE811
Know what's below. 811 before you dig.

Start the free course in about two minutes at okie811.org/learning-hub.

Free. 90 minutes. 100% online.

Start the OKIE811 Certification course in about two minutes — in English or Spanish.
okie811.org/learning-hub

A Smarter Way to Learn, continued



By Hailey Manning
Education & Outreach Manager

541

OKIE811 and OCC certificates issued through the new LMS through July 31

119

Certificates issued in June alone

20

Spanish-language certificates issued in July

One Important Course Distinction

OKIE811 offers two online certification paths, and they serve different purposes.

The standard OKIE811 Certification course is **free** and provides valuable education on safe digging and Oklahoma's damage prevention requirements. However, it is **not** accepted as the certification required by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Those who need an OCC-accepted certificate must register for the separate, paid OCC certification course. The OCC-approved course is available for **\$250 per participant**. Facilitated group training is also available for organizations that want to complete the program together.

Ahora También en Español

Expanding Spanish-language access has been another major part of the LMS project. The Spanish version of the free OKIE811 Certification course allows excavators and crew members to receive critical safety information in the language in which they are most comfortable learning.

The Spanish course is also self-paced and covers the same essential information about the 811 process, safe

excavation and damage prevention. In July alone, 20 Spanish-language OKIE811 certificates were issued.

Providing education in Spanish is not simply about translating words on a screen. It helps remove barriers, strengthens understanding and makes important safety information available to more of the people doing excavation work across Oklahoma.

Growing Participation

Through July 31, 541 OKIE811 and OCC certificates had been issued through the new in-house LMS. June alone accounted for 119 certificates, followed by another 70 in July.

That represents hundreds of people who completed the training, passed the assessment and walked away with knowledge they can apply in the field. The online format also allowed hundreds of learners to earn certification without traveling to an in-person class.

Bringing the LMS in-house has created a stronger foundation for future courses, improved reporting and continued growth of the OKIE811 Certification Program. As the platform evolves, OKIE811 will continue looking for ways to make excavation safety education easier to access, easier to understand and easier to put into practice.

For more information about online certification or facilitated group training, contact education@okie811.org.

Expanding Spanish-Language Education and Outreach Across Oklahoma



By Luis Rendón
Education & Outreach Liaison

OKIE811's Education and Outreach team is working to make safe excavation and damage prevention education more accessible to Spanish-speaking excavators, contractors, utility workers, homeowners, and community members across Oklahoma.

What began as an effort to increase awareness has grown into a broader education program that includes translated resources, online and in-person training, monthly webinars, educational videos, media outreach, and community partnerships.

Building a Foundation

The initiative began with the development and adaptation of Spanish-language materials explaining the 811 process, underground utility safety, damage prevention, and the importance of contacting 811 before digging.

Resources have included Spanish APWA color code cards, safe-digging keychains, educational videos, and a Spanish version of OKIE811's Homeowner's Guide to Safe Digging. The guide introduces the Five Steps to Safe Digging and provides homeowners with practical information for planning excavation projects safely.

OKIE811 also established relationships with Spanish-language media organizations, Hispanic community leaders, and local organizations. These partnerships helped connect Spanish-speaking communities with safety information and educational opportunities.

Growing In-Person Training

These efforts contributed to OKIE811's first Spanish Safe Excavation Day, held in Oklahoma City in October 2025. The half-day program welcomed 18 participants and included OKIE811 certification training, an introduction to utility line locating, and excavation safety education.

Building on the success of the first event, OKIE811 hosted its second Spanish Safe Excavation Day on **July 10, 2026**, at the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Support from community partners and Spanish-language media, including Telemundo, helped increase awareness and attendance.

The 2026 event grew to 23 participants and expanded into a full-day program covering OKIE811 certification, utility line locating, excavation and trenching safety, and gas pipeline safety and damage prevention.

Expanding Spanish-Language Education, continued



By Luis Rendón
Education & Outreach Liaison

18

Participants at the first Spanish Safe Excavation Day, October 2025

Providing Education Throughout the Year

Recognizing that not everyone can attend an in-person event, OKIE811 also introduced monthly Spanish-language webinars. These convenient, approximately 30-minute sessions provide ongoing education for workers and employers across Oklahoma.

Webinar topics have included excavator responsibilities, submitting accurate locate requests, understanding utility markings, reviewing Positive Response, maintaining valid locate requests, respecting the tolerance zone, and preventing damage to underground utilities.

The team has also translated and adapted the Oklahoma Excavator Guide into Spanish and made it available in printed and online formats. In addition, OKIE811 launched a Spanish version of its online certification course, allowing participants to complete the training at no cost and at their own pace.

Together, these resources provide several ways for Spanish-speaking audiences to access important safety information through printed materials, digital resources, virtual instruction, and in-person training.

Looking Ahead

OKIE811 plans to continue expanding Spanish-language education throughout the state. Future goals

23

Participants at the second, July 10, 2026

Monthly

Spanish-language webinars, about 30 minutes each

include strengthening community and media partnerships, increasing webinar participation, developing additional educational resources, and bringing Spanish Safe Excavation Day programming to other areas of Oklahoma, including Tulsa.



OKIE811 Education & Outreach Liaisons on a television set ahead of an interview. Media partnerships remain a core part of the outreach program.

Through continued teamwork and outreach, OKIE811 is working to ensure that language is not a barrier to understanding the 811 process or practicing safe excavation. By making education more accessible, OKIE811 is helping Spanish-speaking workers and homeowners protect underground facilities, prevent damages, and keep Oklahoma communities safe.

El idioma no debe ser una barrera para excavar con seguridad.

Recursos, capacitación y certificación en español.

Education@okie811.org · okie811.org



2026 Annual Meeting of the Membership: A Recap

Leadership delivers the State of the Company update at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Membership.



By Eva Donahue
Member Services Liaison

Thank you to everyone who joined us for OKIE811's Annual Meeting of the Membership. Board President Tim Young called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and presented the 2025 Year in Review.

Members also participated in the re-election of the Board of Directors — Michael Humphries with the City of Enid and Clint Mobley with Oklahoma Electric Cooperative. Thank you for your participation and continued engagement in helping shape the future of our organization.

The Member Education Forum highlighted new portal features and Virtual Meeting offerings with a special focus on the **Excavation Readiness** initiative. This new initiative measures the number of tickets where excavators can begin work safely and on time, reinforcing our commitment to improving damage prevention.

We were also honored to welcome guest speaker Garrison Wynn. Attendees shared excellent feedback on Garrison's presentation, *Influencing Safety: What the Most Successful Do Differently*. A key takeaway: no one has all the answers, and asking questions, collaborating, and sharing knowledge are essential to preventing damage and keeping Oklahoma safe.

State of the Company

Leadership then provided a State of the Company update, reviewing the organization's progress, year-end

2025 financial performance, strategic initiatives, and key accomplishments, including:

- Excavation Readiness Report
- Estimated Completion Date limit and update restrictions
- Worksite buffer reduction
- Network and system security upgrades
- Education and Outreach achievements, opportunities, and events
- New OKIE811 Certification Course, now available in English and Spanish

Looking ahead, underground infrastructure work is expected to continue growing, fueled by broadband expansion, investments in water and wastewater systems, energy and pipeline projects, and transportation improvements. As activity increases, collaboration, damage prevention, workforce development, and technology will remain key to supporting the industry and delivering safe, efficient service.

The day concluded with a networking reception, providing valuable opportunities to connect, collaborate, and strengthen relationships across the industry.

Thank you again to everyone who attended. We appreciate your engagement, collaboration, and dedication to our shared mission, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

DEEP DIVE: READINESS METRICS

Work Type Readiness | Jan 2025 - Feb 2026

Work Type	Avg % Ready	Rank	Status	"OTHER" RESPONSE RATES
Design / Testing	49%	1	Strong	Gas / Pipeline
Electric	46%	2	Strong	56.49% On-time
Foundation / Paving	46%	3	Strong	
Other	45%	4	Moderate	Telecom
Landscaping	45%	5	Moderate	51.69% On-time
Signs / Poles	45%	6	Moderate	
Construction	44%	7	Moderate	Water / Sewer
Fence / Gate	44%	8	Moderate	51.74% On-time
Drainage	43%	9	Moderate	
Roads / Bridges	43%	10	Moderate	
Water / Sewer	42%	11	Moderate	
Telecom	38%	12	Moderate	
Gas / Pipeline	27%	13	Critical	

50.55%

Ready If Excavation-Ready Response Instead of "Other."

Save the Date: Two Major OKIE811 Events Coming in 2027



By Hailey Manning & Eva Donahue
Education & Outreach · Member Services



There is plenty to look forward to in 2027, so go ahead and give your calendar a little advance notice. OKIE811 will host the Annual Meeting of the Membership in March, followed by the Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo in September. Two major events, two great venues, and plenty of reasons to join us.

2027 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Wednesday, March 10, 2027

Lively Hotel on OAK · Oklahoma City

OKIE811 Members are invited to join the OKIE811 Team and fellow Members from across the state for the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Membership.

This annual gathering gives us an opportunity to look back at what we accomplished, look ahead at what is coming, and remember just how much can happen in one year. Attendees will receive updates on OKIE811 operations, technology, upcoming initiatives, legislative activity, and damage prevention efforts. Members will also participate in the election of Board Members.

As an attendee, you will

- Hear the latest updates on OKIE811 operations, technology enhancements, and strategic initiatives.
- Learn about legislative developments and damage prevention efforts impacting Oklahoma's excavation community.
- Participate in the election of OKIE811 Board Members to help guide the future of your organization.
- Network with fellow members, industry professionals, and the OKIE811 team.

Event highlights

- **Connect with industry leaders** — build relationships with fellow members, facility operators, excavators, contractors, and damage prevention professionals from across Oklahoma.
- **Member Appreciation Lunch, complimentary** — our way of thanking you for your continued partnership and commitment to excavation safety.
- **Guest speaker: Seth Yelorda** — as Founder and Director of Vision Clarity Consulting, Seth helps leaders and organizations gain clarity, build momentum, and turn ideas into meaningful results. Drawing on more than 15 years of senior leadership experience, he works with executives and teams to define their vision and develop focused strategies for moving forward.
- **Optional Member Support Session, 10:00 AM to noon**
Stop by for one-on-one assistance with your account or questions about OKIE811 services. Our team will be available to answer questions and connect you with the appropriate resources.

Registration is Open

Attendance is complimentary for OKIE811 Members. Advance registration is requested to assist with planning, seating and catering.

okie811.org/annual-meeting

2027 Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo

September 22–23, 2027

Reed Conference Center · Midwest City



Theme: We Are All Connected. Every community, business, and neighborhood in Oklahoma depends on the infrastructure beneath it, whether the people relying on those services ever pick up a shovel or not.

The Oklahoma Excavation Safety Expo returns in September 2027 at a new, larger venue. The two-day event will bring together excavators, utility operators, locators, contractors, safety professionals, industry partners, and other stakeholders committed to preventing damages and improving safety throughout Oklahoma.

2027 Keynote: Aaron Witt

The 2027 keynote speaker will be Aaron Witt, founder of BuildWitt. Aaron entered the construction industry at age 18 after becoming fascinated by a project in his neighborhood. In 2018, he began sharing photographs and stories from the heavy construction industry online and launched BuildWitt.

Today, BuildWitt helps what Aaron calls the “Dirt World,” including critical infrastructure and natural resource industries, attract, train, and retain the next generation through storytelling, software, and leadership events. Aaron continues to visit construction and mining operations across the United States and around the world, sharing the people, projects, and careers that keep communities connected.

Registration details for the Expo will be announced soon.

Help Us Build the 2027 Expo Program

OKIE811 is currently accepting proposals for workshops, breakout sessions, and panel discussions.

Possible topics include excavation and trenching safety, damage prevention, the 811 process, locating, ticket quality, Positive Response, utility coordination, broadband construction, GIS and emerging technology, workforce development, safety culture, leadership, and real-world field lessons.

You do not need to be a professional speaker or have a polished presentation. If you have solved a problem in

the field, developed a successful program, or learned an important lesson through experience, this audience wants to hear from you.

Selected speakers will receive complimentary Expo registration. Speakers who require a fee may include that information with their proposal, and requesting a fee will not disqualify a submission.

Submit a proposal

Submit your abstract

Deadline: September 30, 2026

Responses sent by: December 31, 2026

Questions may be directed to

education@okie811.org.

Know someone with a story or expertise worth sharing? Encourage them to submit a proposal. After all, that is the whole point of this year's theme: **We Are All Connected.**

Mark your calendar and watch for registration details.



Exhibitors at the 2026 Expo. Session proposals for 2027 are open now.

Stay Connected

RESOURCES, WEBINARS AND CONTACTS



Recording at the 2026 Expo. Podcast episodes, webinars and past recordings are all on the OKIE811 YouTube channel.

Free Webinars, Every Other Wednesday

Need a refresher on 811 responsibilities? Join OKIE811's free webinar series at 2:00 PM. Each month features a mix of topics for both excavators and member companies, from damage prevention best practices to regulatory updates and tools to streamline your workflow.

Can't attend live? Most sessions are recorded and available on our YouTube channel, along with past webinars, podcasts, and other helpful content.

Watch and subscribe at youtube.com/@OKIE811

Quick Links

WHAT YOU NEED	WHERE TO GO
Free 811 Certification course (English & Spanish)	okie811.org/learning-hub
Digital Excavator Guides	okie811.org/excavators
Safety Day & Expo registration	okexcavationsafety.com
Excavator Portal tutorials	okie811.org/excavator-portal-tutorials
Webinars, podcasts & recordings	youtube.com/@OKIE811

Contact Us

Member Services

Questions about your OKIE811 Membership and available services.
MemberServices@okie811.org
800-522-6544 ext. 4003

Member Billing

Questions about your Membership account or invoice.
MemberBilling@okie811.org
800-522-6544 ext. 4003

Education & Outreach

Training requests, speaking, events and materials.
Education@okie811.org
800-522-6544 ext. 4811

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