

DAMAGE PREVENTION

Conference & Expo 

Conference Agenda
Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Agenda is current as of Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. **Check-in/Breakfast/Vendors**

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks in Exhibit Hall**

Time	Room	Session	Credits (Key on pg. 2)
8:35 a.m.–9:35 a.m.	1	Mapping your Jobsite: Preventing Damage Before You Break Ground Gabriel Lawlis—SAM	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	2	Excavation Liability Pitfalls: Avoiding Costly Mistakes J. Wilder—Wilder and Linneball, LLP	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	3	Defining Your Dig: Understanding the UDig NY Extent of Excavation Rules UDig NY Web Services	
	4/5	Back to the Basics: Building a Culture of Damage Prevention Jason Marsh—NYSEG & Cole Bronson—Bermex	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
8:35 a.m.–10:45 a.m.	6	NYS DOT Certified Flagger—AGC NY (Session One—pre-enrollment required) John DeWispelaere—Livingston Development Ventures	2.0 2.0 1.5
9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.	1	Vacuum Excavation 101: Digging Smarter, Not Harder Bob Skinner—Badger	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	2	GPR in Action: Ground Penetrating Radar for Utility Locating Troy De Souza—GPR Americas	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	3	Tips, Tools & Tricks to up Your Exactix Mapping Game UDig NY Web Services Team	
	4/5	Sniffing Out Leaks: K9's in Water Leak Detection Daniel Levey—Nose On the Ground	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	7/8	PPE That Fits: Closing the Safety Gap for Women Jenna Mausolf—Workher Wear	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
10:55 a.m.–11:55 a.m.	1	Protect Your Hearing: What Employees and Employers Need to Know Kevin O'Brien—Access Compliance	1.0 1.0 1.0
	2	Construction by the Numbers: A Contractor's Cheat Sheet to Regulations Gary Aber—Labella Associates	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	3	What to Do After 911: Emergency Preparedness on the Job R. Jeremy Starr—MSA	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	4/5	Inside National Grid's Damage Prevention Playbook National Grid Damage Prevention/Pipeline Safety Team	1.0
	7/8	Force Multiplier: A Damage Prevention Marketing Partnership Case Study Andrew Wilber—UDig NY	

12:05 p.m.–1:30 p.m. **Lunch & Vendors**

Session descriptions provided on pages 3-5

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Time	Room	Session	Credits
1:35 p.m.– 2:35 p.m.	1	Mastering Locate Theory: Tools, Techniques and Target Lines Jim Flint—Eastcom Associates	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	2	Breaking Ground, Not Utilities: Why 97% of Strikes Are Preventable Lilly Agozzino-Kolisch—Prostar	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	3	Large Project Coordination Workshop: Building the Future Together Kevin Hopper & Aimee Doyle—UDig NY	
	4/5	Dust Dangers: Understanding Respirable Crystalline Silica Kevin O'Brien—Access Compliance	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
1:35 p.m.– 3:45 p.m.	6	NYS DOT Certified Flagger—AGC NY (Session Two—pre-enrollment required) John DeWispelaere—Livingston Development Ventures	2.0 2.0 1.5
2:45 p.m.– 3:45 p.m.	1	Tech Talk: How Innovation is Transforming Damage Prevention Matt Shaw—Boss 811	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
	2	Positive Response Problems: Tackling Lates and Delays in Excavation Readiness Kevin Hopper—UDig NY	
	4/5	Code Rule 753: Essentials, Updates, and Certification Renewal Andrew Schettine—UDig NY	1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
3:50 p.m.– 4:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks & Raffle		

Session descriptions provided on pages 3-5

Credits Key

Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional (CNLP)	Professional Engineering, Land Surveying & Geology	Water Operator	Wastewater Operator	Certified Forester (CFE)

NYS Building Officials Conference Credit*

Any session may be submitted for credit, to NYSBOC for approval at discretion of NYSBOC



UDIGNY.ORG /conference

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The Oncenter Convention Center | Syracuse, NY



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Conference Session Descriptions

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Pre-enrollment required

NYS DOT Certified Flagger—AGC NY

Max seating 25 per session.

John DeWispelaere *Livingston Development Ventures*

Flaggers are the frontline of work zone safety. This NYS DOT certification course, accredited by AGC NY, covers essential flagging operations, situational practices, and proper traffic control procedures. Gain the skills and certification to protect your crew and the public—one stop sign at a time.

Morning Sessions

Mapping your Jobsite: Preventing Damage Before You Break Ground

Gabriel Lawlis *SAM*

Before the first shovel hits the dirt, smart contractors are investing in Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) and private locating to uncover what's underground. This session explores how advanced site mapping saves time, reduces costly damages, and keeps your project on track. Learn about the latest tools, techniques, and deliverables that give you a clear view of buried infrastructure—so you can dig with confidence.

Excavation Liability Pitfalls: Avoiding Costly Mistakes

J. Wilder *Wilder and Linneball, LLP*

What you don't know can hurt you—legally and financially. Join Super Lawyer J. Joseph Wilder, Esq., as he demystifies excavation-related liabilities and highlights the risks of cutting corners. With nearly 40 years of experience representing construction companies and public utilities, Wilder will walk through real-world court cases, statutory obligations, and the dangers of ignoring the "Fail Safe" system. If you're digging, you can't afford to miss this.

Defining Your Dig: Understanding the UDig NY Extent of Excavation Rules

UDig NY Web Services

How much work can you include on a single location request—and why does it matter? Join a UDig NY Web Services expert for a step-by-step walkthrough of the policy set by the UDig NY Board of Directors that defines the allowable extent of excavation per ticket. Whether you submit tickets through Exactix or by calling 811, you'll learn how to plan your requests efficiently while reducing strain on the locating community and ensuring your project starts on time.

Back to the Basics: Building a Culture of Damage Prevention

Jason Marsh *NYSEG Cole Bronson Bermex*

Effective communication, hands-on training, and field education are the foundation of reducing excavation-related damages. This session re-centers the conversation on collaboration between utility operators and contractors, with strategies for using technology, leadership, and in-the-field learning to create a damage prevention culture that lasts.

Vacuum Excavation 101: Digging Smarter, Not Harder

Bob Skinner *Badger Inc*

Vacuum excavation, also called soft digging and hydro excavation, is the safest and most efficient way to expose utilities. This session explores the "how" and "why" behind the method, showing how it minimizes risk and reduces cost without compromising on safety or speed.

GPR in Action: Ground Penetrating Radar for Utility Locating

Troy De Souza *GPR Americas*

See it. Scan it. Understand it. This hands-on session introduces the fundamentals of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and how to use it effectively to detect subsurface utilities. Learn best practices in both classroom and field formats.

Tips, Tools & Tricks to up Your Exactix Mapping Game

UDig NY Web Services

Does your location request really match your dig site? The answer to that question could mean the difference between a successful project and a disaster. In this critical training, discover the Exactix features the pros use to map accurately and efficiently. Whether your job involves placing or responding to location requests, the skills covered in this session can help save time, money, and even lives.

Sniffing Out Leaks: K9's in Water Leak Detection

Daniel Levey *Nose On the Ground*

Dogs aren't just man's best friend—they're damage prevention allies. Explore how K9 units are revolutionizing water leak detection.

PPE That Fits: Closing the Safety Gap for Women

Jenna Mausolf *Workher Wear*

Ill-fitting PPE isn't just uncomfortable—it's unsafe. Join this session for a deep dive into the challenges women face finding properly designed gear, and how the industry is starting to change. Learn about leading manufacturers, the impact of design inequity, and practical ways to advocate for fit-for-purpose PPE for every worker.

Protect Your Hearing: What Employees and Employers Need to Know

Kevin O'Brien *Access Compliance*

Noise-induced hearing loss is permanent—but preventable. Learn the five pillars of a strong hearing conservation program, from monitoring and audiometric testing to protective gear and training. Discover how much noise is too much, what hearing loss really sounds like, and how to keep yourself and your team protected on every job.

Construction by the Numbers:

A Contractor's Cheat Sheet to Regulations

Gary Aber *Labella Associates*

Confused by all the overlapping rules and regulations? You're not alone. This session is your go-to guide for making sense of the numerical jungle—OSHA regs, NYSDOT standards, MUTCD WZTC, UDig NY rules, DEC oversight, and more. Perfect for contractors looking for a clear, concise reference to stay compliant and ahead of the curve.

What to Do After 911:

Emergency Preparedness on the Job

R. Jeremy Starr *MSA*

The call to 911 is just the beginning. When the unthinkable happens on the job, being prepared can save lives. This session outlines what to do immediately following a workplace injury—from helping coworkers to supporting first responders—and how to build an emergency response plan that works when every second counts.

Inside National Grid's Damage Prevention Playbook

National Grid *Damage Prevention/Pipeline Safety Team*

Go behind the scenes with National Grid's damage prevention team as they walk through the steps they take to protect infrastructure and the public. Learn from case studies and programs covering the locate process, the advisor program, knowing what is below ground, e-learning tools, and more.

Force Multiplier: A Damage Prevention Marketing Partnership Case Study

Andrew Wilber *UDig NY*

In a world that's getting more saturated with advertising noise by the day, can a small damage prevention team with a limited budget make a difference? Is it even worth it to try? The answer is YES! In this session, we'll discuss the challenges of damage prevention advertising, and then explore a recent, real-life case study of a damage prevention marketing coalition that beat the odds and caused real, measurable change. We'll finish by breaking it down into key action items that you can apply to your own marketing and public awareness efforts.

Afternoon Sessions

Mastering Locate Theory:

Tools, Techniques and Target Lines

Jim Flint *Eastcom Associates*

Ever wonder why some locates are crystal clear and others fall flat? This session breaks down electromagnetic locating theory, frequency selection, and grounding practices—regardless of the equipment brand. You'll walk away with a solid understanding of the science behind locates and real-world tips to improve accuracy every time you mark the ground.

Breaking Ground, Not Utilities:

Why 97% of Strikes Are Preventable

Lilly Agozzino-Kolisch *Prostar*

Utility line strikes continue to pose a costly and dangerous threat to communities, contractors, and critical infrastructure. But what if up to 97% of these incidents could be prevented with tools and practices already within reach? In this session, Lilly Agozzino-Kolisch, a leading voice in utility damage prevention and digital mapping innovation, breaks down the root causes of preventable strikes and shares actionable strategies to eliminate them. From bridging the gap between analog and digital workflows, to leveraging real-time geospatial data in the field, attendees will learn how next gen tools are transforming damage prevention- and saving lives, time and money in the process. Whether you're in the field, managing operations or shaping policy, this session offers practical insights for building a safer, smarter utility future.

Large Project Coordination Workshop:

Building the Future Together

Kevin Hopper & Aimee Doyle *UDig NY*

Big projects need big planning—and UDig NY is developing a new Large Project Coordination feature to make that process easier than ever. In this interactive working session, UDig NY President/CEO Kevin Hopper and Operations Manager Aimee Doyle will present the foundation of the system and collaborate with stakeholders from across the 811 process to refine it. Your feedback will help shape the tools and workflows that meet the unique needs of Upstate New York's excavation community.

Dust Dangers:

Understanding Respirable Crystalline Silica

Kevin O'Brien *Access Compliance*

It's smaller than a grain of sand—but the risks are enormous. This session dives into how workers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica, what safety controls are effective, and how compliance with OSHA's silica standard can prevent life-threatening illness. If you work around dust, this is a can't-miss.

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Tech Talk: How Innovation is Transforming Damage Prevention

Matt Shaw *BOSS 811*

Innovation in damage prevention isn't just about what's underground—it's about how we manage what's above it. In this session, a BOSS811 expert will showcase how cloud-based platforms, smart ticket management, and automated workflows are revolutionizing the 811 process. Learn how real-time communication, mobile tools, and data integrations are helping facility operators, locators, and excavators streamline operations, improve response times, and reduce human error. Discover what's next in 811 technology—and how BOSS811 is leading the charge.

Positive Response Problems: Tackling Lates and Delays in Excavation Readiness

Kevin Hopper *UDig NY*

2025 has been one of the most challenging years in recent history for timely utility responses—and projects across Upstate New York are feeling the strain. UDig NY President & CEO Kevin Hopper takes a candid look at the growing problem of no responses and delayed responses from facility operators, the impact on excavation timelines, and what's being done to improve readiness. Walk away with a clearer understanding of the problem—and how industry collaboration can drive solutions.

Code Rule 753: Essentials, Updates, and Certification Renewal

Andrew Schettine *UDig NY Field Representative*

Stay sharp, stay compliant. This session, led by a UDig NY Field Representative, covers the essential requirements of New York State's Code Rule 753 along with recent updates to the law. This refresher not only reinforces safe excavation practices—it also qualifies as a renewal class for the UDig NY Certified Excavator Program. If you dig in New York, this is knowledge you can't afford to skip.



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